

What's Inside

Editorials by Don McGregor, Page 2

Liquor ads, creationism filed

Welcome home, Grady Cothen

"China as we saw it," Page 4

Faces and Places by Anne McWilliams, Page 5

Grady Cothen lauded, Page 6

The

Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1984

Published Since 187

Overloaded in Bangalore

Doctor says she's not a workaholic

By Anita Bowden

BANGALORE, India (BP)—She's been accused of being a workaholic and having a martyr complex, labels she denies vehemently.

Surgeon Rebekah Naylor, whose father, Robert Naylor, was pastor of First Church, Columbia, S.C., from 1947-52, does not work long, hard hours at Bangalore Baptist Hospital because she feels the need to work, but because she feels the need.

"I get very frustrated with the situation in which I find myself sometimes because it is so out of my control," she says. "I get frustrated and

sometimes angry and bitter because I can't do the things (socially) that other people do. There come times when I get tired enough I can't handle that very well."

When Naylor arrived in Bangalore nine years ago there was another missionary surgeon. The next year he left and she's been on her own ever since, though there have been volunteer surgeons at various times and she's now training an Indian doctor. During that time the hospital opened a second wing, added an ICU and increased the daily-outpatient



The day begins early for missionary physician Rebekah Naylor at Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India. But long hours and hard work are nothing new to the woman who graduated magna cum laude from Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and was third in her class at Vanderbilt Medical

School, Nashville, Tenn. She also is a member of Alpha Omicron Alpha, a national honorary society that admits the top 10 percent of the medical graduates in the states. (BP) PHOTO By Don Rutledge

flow from "very few" to between 150 and 200.

At any one time Naylor has about 25 patients in the hospital, more than twice the load of surgeons in the States. And it's getting worse. Last year, 1223 operations were performed, almost 48 percent more than two years ago.

"I think the only reason I stay is because I still am fully convinced this is where God wants me to serve," she says. "I have had plenty of job offers and lots of pressure, but I feel this is where I belong."

She also finds fulfillment through the hospital's evangelistic outreach and results: the weekly patient chapel she leads, the churches that have started from hospital contacts, the patients who made professions of faith and her MasterLife group.

"It so happened the possibility of doing that (MasterLife) came up at probably one of my lowest times last year," she says. "I did more Caesarean sections and I was up night after night after night. It was horrible. And I was completely at my wit's end and in the middle of that, one afternoon

one of these girls said, 'We've heard about this MasterLife course. Why don't you teach it to us?'

"I had been praying all these years I would have that kind of opportunity and here it was. (But) how could I do one more thing? Finally I said, 'OK, I feel I should and I want to and I'm just going to have to trust God to make it possible.'"

The hospital's witness is very important to her, and the quality of patient care is part of it, Naylor believes. She's willing, perhaps driven, to work extra hours to make sure the quality of that care doesn't drop and damage the hospital's witness in the process.

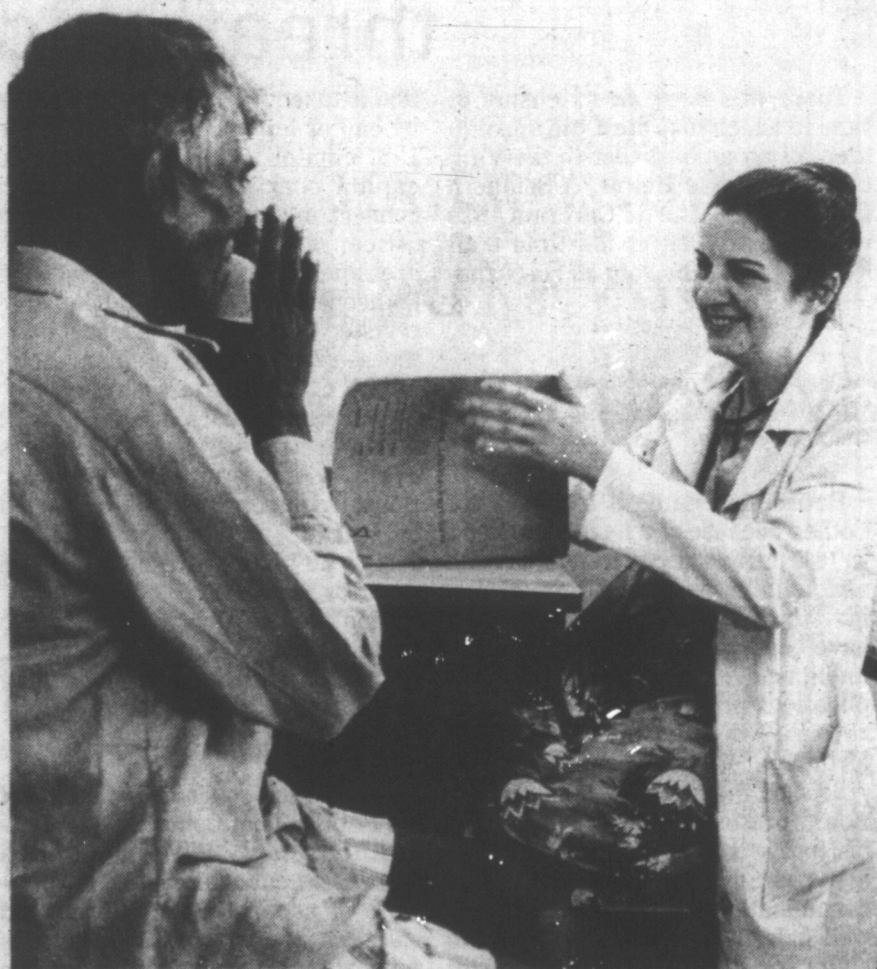
Clinic hours are in the afternoon when she's already put in more than six hours on rounds, in the operating room and seeing private patients. But she has a ready smile for each patient and a concern for their health which includes careful attention to each complaint and scoldings when they haven't followed her instructions.

Sometimes her schedule at the hospital plus responsibilities as mission chairman and press representative play havoc with her sleep.

Relaxation, in the form of playing the piano, light reading or needlepoint is rare. She does make time for entertaining at home, her one consistent outlet. Guests are treated to a leisurely meal served in surroundings which reflect Naylor's personality. There's a mixture of comfortable, upholstered furniture from the States, casual bamboo and glass furniture from India and "plenty of medical stuff," including an old doctor's bag and a copy of the Hippocratic oath.

Scattered around the house are other items which say something about their owner. Dozens of small brass pieces and several brass trays line the sideboard and over the piano hangs a wood inlay of the procession of the maharajah. All are gifts, from patients and Indian co-workers. Some are elaborate and expensive; others, though inexpensive, represent sacrifice on the giver's part. Each says something of the kind of person Naylor is and the sort of influence she's had as a missionary and surgeon in India.

(Anita Bowden writes for the Foreign Mission Board.)



Holding a prescription in his mouth, a man in the outpatient clinic at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, gives the traditional Indian greeting to Rebekah Naylor. Besides working in the clinic, Naylor is the only missionary surgeon at the hospital in India and is chairman and press representative for the Baptist mission. (BP) PHOTO By Don Rutledge

Editorials..... by don mcgregor

Liquor ads, creationism filed

Once each year, every year, in the state Legislature comes the bill filed by Senator Howard Dyer that would make lawful the advertising of alcoholic beverages in the state. At this time it is unlawful to engage in such advertising.

Each year this bill dies in committee, but Dyer keeps trying; and that is the method of alcohol interests everywhere. They count on the idea that sooner or later those who are opposed to the use of alcohol and thereby opposed to any effort to promote it will eventually grow tired and quit fighting. That is the way alcohol makes it headway wherever it is moving.

But we can't quit. It should be unlawful to advertise alcohol in Mississippi. It's use is against the law. In certain areas there have been local decisions to come out from under the prohibition, but that does not change the fact that the state is legally dry. To be able to advertise alcohol in a dry area where it is illegal to drink it does not make sense. The Fifth Circuit Court has affirmed this.

This bill has been assigned to the judiciary committee of the Senate, and Mississippians need to express their views to their senators. This is Senate Bill 2083.

Another new bill in the Senate is SB 2254, filed by Senators Stringer, Gollott, Manning, Shows, Benjamin, Cannon, Harpole, Nix, Rayborn, Guerieri, Minor, and Burkes. This would provide for the presentation of "scientific creationism" in the public schools if the theory of evolution is presented. This bill has been assigned to the Education committee.

The "if" in this consideration is a big word. I am not at all enamored with the idea of presenting

creationism in the public school. I suppose there might be a good argument that it would border on a violation of the separation of church and state. But that is where the "if" comes into play. There would be no creationism presented if evolution were not presented.

The presentation of evolution is also a violation of the separation of church and state, for evolution is diametrically opposed to creationism. If the presentation of creationism is a violation, because of being based on a religious concept, then it would have to follow that the presentation of evolution also would be a violation. It would be teaching an anti-religious viewpoint, and that in itself would be an exercise in religion—therefore a violation of the establishment clause.

It would be difficult for me to understand that all of the scientific data that have been gathered on creation could not be presented and explained without resorting to a presentation of evolution as a result. All of that data could be explained without trying to pretend that man evolved from a monkey or a fish.

While I am not a supporter of presenting creationism, I support this bill if evolution is to be presented. If the passage of this bill would halt the presentation of evolution, I would be for that also. Then creationism would not be presented.

Three senators have introduced bills that would raise the age for drinking beer and light wine to 21. At this time it is 18. Regular wine and liquor are legal now at age 21 and above. Senators Mills and Harpole filed Senate Bill 2086, and Senator Burkes filed Senate Bill 2087. These bills are identical, and one of them needs to get through the Legislature. They need and deserve support. These bills have been assigned to the Judiciary committee.

And Senator Mills has filed Senate

Bill 2183 that defines terms dealing with pornography in order to make Mississippi's pornography laws constitutional. This bill deserves support. Pornography is a dangerous thing. Researchers are beginning to find that it has its effect in criminal actions such as rape and even murder.

A Jackson family is suing a Jackson bookstore because a man has admitted watching pornographic movies at the bookstore before he raped the family's nine-year-old daughter. That speaks for itself. This bill was assigned to the Judiciary committee.

A companion bill to Senate Bill 2183 has been filed in the House. It is House Bill 238 filed by Representatives Doney and Atkinson. It has been assigned to the Judiciary B committee.

Another lottery bill has also been filed in the House. It is House Bill 253, filed by Representative Ellis. Our opposition to a lottery was discussed two weeks ago, and it still stands. This bill needs to be defeated in the Ways and Means Committee.

These are matters that demand the utmost attention of Mississippi Baptists. They cannot be shrugged off. In our democratic society, the input of the citizenry is crucial. Please don't fail to be attentive and involved. Be in touch with senators and representatives. You elected them, and you need to let them know you are knowledgeable and interested.

Look back on last week's issue. Jack Hamm had a very telling cartoon on the effects of drinking beer at an early age. This is a more desperate situation than most of us are able to realize, not being a part of the society element in which beer is such a prominent element.

The argument that if an 18-year-old is old enough to go to war he is old enough to drink beer does not hold water. There is no relationship.

Legislative program

Bills that deserve support

Senate Bills 2086 and 2087—
increase legal age for drinking
beer and light wine to 21
(Judiciary Committee)

Senate Bill 2183—establish de-
finitions for pornographic mate-
rial (Judiciary Committee)

Senate Bill 2254—present
creationism in classroom if evolu-

tion is taught (Education Com-
mittee)

House Bill 76—increase legal
age for drinking beer and light
wine to 21 (Ways and Means
Committee)

House Bill 238—establish defini-
tions for pornographic materials
(Judiciary B Committee)

Bills that should be killed

Senate Bill 2083—legalize ad-
vertising of wine and liquor
(Judiciary Committee)

House Bill 253—establish a state

lottery. There have been a
number of lottery bills intro-
duced. They all need to die (Ways
and Means Committee).

Please get in touch!

"No respecter of persons"

Feb. 12 is Race Relations Sunday across the nation in Southern Baptist churches, and it is a day that should be noted in Mississippi Baptist churches.

Though it has long been thought of as primarily a state of the white and black races, Mississippi has growing populations of yellow, brown, and red races. That means, in fact, that Mississippi is home for a sizeable group of citizens of every color in race background that there is to be found on the face of the earth.

Good relationships between races is not an easy condition to be ac-

complished, but we have no choice but to use our influence in seeking to foster good race relations. The theme for this year's Race Relations Sunday is "God has no favorites." A study of scripture convinces that this is true, and therefore we must have no favorites either. All are precious in the sight of the Lord.

The scripture verse supporting this year's observation is found in Acts 10:34. It reads, (in the King James Version) "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." Nor should we be.

Honored principle threatened

There has been an extension of time in which to protest the appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican. Sen. Jesse Helms, a Southern Baptist from North Carolina, has won an extension of the time until Feb. 21 before the vote on confirma-

tion is taken. Protests may be made by call or letter. The number of the U.S. capitol is (202) 224-3121. The capitol operator will answer and connect the caller with the desired office. Both senators and congressmen can be contacted that way. Someone in the office will be glad to register the protest and pass it on to the senator or congressman. Actually, it is the Senate where the confirmation will take place or fail, so it is imperative to contact Senators John Stennis and Thad Cochran. House members may be contacted but will have no vote in confirmation. They do have influence with senators, however.

Senators may be addressed by the United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. The House members may be addressed at the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said, "We've never had a more clear cut challenge to the principle of separation of church and state. If Baptists really believe in separation, they have just a few days to comment. Only if hundreds of thousands of citizens phone and write their senators and congressmen will we have a chance to stop this flagrant violation."

Welcome home, Grady Cothen

This month Mississippi Baptists welcome back to the state a native son who has been away a good while and who has registered more than the normal amount of achievements since he left the state.

He is Grady Cothen, who has just retired as president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. He will move back to Mississippi and "go fishing." A retirement banquet was held for Cothen on Jan. 30 in Nashville. A conflict prevented my attending.

Cothen has spent 40 years in church and denominational life. The list of positions reads like a line up of Southern Baptist blue chip industries. He has been pastor of churches in Chattanooga, Oklahoma City, and Birmingham. He has been executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern

Baptist General Convention of California, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, and president of New Orleans Seminary; and he has just retired as president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. In addition to all of those positions, he was a Navy chaplain during World War II.

Both Cothen and his wife, Bettye, are from Mississippi. He is from a preacher family. Though he comes from Pearl River County, he was saved, baptized, and ordained at Richton Baptist Church. He has two brothers, and both are preachers.

Cothen was the third president of the Sunday School Board in a row to come from Mississippi. T. L. Holcomb retired in Texas and is now dead. James L. Sullivan now lives in the Nashville area.

Retirement came a bit early for Cothen because of a health problem. In 1980 he was discovered to have an abdominal malignancy, and most of his stomach was removed. There have been no recurring signs of the malignancy, but further health complications prompted the decision to retire 18 months before his 65th birthday.

So soon the retired Sunday School Board president will be resettled in his native state. We say, Welcome home, Grady. You have served your denomination and the Kingdom very well indeed. Mississippi is proud to claim you. We hope your return will meet every expectation and that your retirement will be pleasant and meaningful.

Please make yourself at home.

The Baptist Record

(ISSN-0005-5778)

515 Mississippi Street
P.O. Box 530

Jackson, Miss. 39205

Don McGregor Editor
Tim Nicholas Associate Editor
Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate

Journal of
The Mississippi Baptist
Convention

Charles Pickering
President
Earl Kelly
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Bruce Hill, Lexington; Odie Henderson, Cleve-
land, vice-chairman; Tom Hudson, Jackson,
chairman; Owen Lusk, Columbia; Robert H.
Jackson, Brandon; Dan Thompson, Ackers-
man; Ex-officio, Evelyn Keyes, secretary.

Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in ad-
vance.

Published weekly except week of July 4 and
Christmas.

Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Mis-
sissippi.

The Baptist Record is a member of the
Southern Baptist Press Association.

Volume CVIII Number 2

The Baptist Record

Elder installed as president of Baptist Sunday School Board

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Lloyd Elder pledged at his installation as the seventh president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board the board will give top priority to assisting churches in winning a lost world to Jesus Christ.

"It is not the responsibility of local churches to serve the institutional needs of the board," said Elder. "It is rather the task of the board to serve the teaching, ministering, worshipping, evangelizing, discipline needs of the churches."

Elder, 50, was elected in February 1983 by the board's trustees to succeed Grady C. Cothen at his retirement in 1984. Elder began work at the board in April 1983 and completed 10 months of orientation as president-elect.

He reported he had conducted an intense study of the history of the board and talked with many Southern Baptists about the work of the

institution.

Every element of the board's operation must first be committed to God, Elder emphasized. He added the work also encompasses the Southern Baptist Convention, the denomination, local churches, and individual Southern Baptists.

The work of the board must be focused on the Bible, evangelism, Sunday school, developing leaders, and meeting the diverse and changing needs of Southern Baptists, Elder outlined.

"Unapologetically, the board continues to acknowledge its ownership by the convention," Elder said. "As we seek to fulfill our purpose, we will manage our affairs prudently, earn our support by our own endeavors, and contribute to the support of our convention."

Noting the denomination includes 14 million members, 36,302 churches, 1,221 associations, 37 state conven-

tion, and numerous boards, agencies, commissions, and committees, Elder said: "Today we recommit ourselves to comradeship in the family of SBC agencies and state conventions. It is one of our hopes the board might seek to contribute to a spiritual and organizational renewal of the people called Southern Baptists."

He emphasized the Bible has been at the heart of the 93-year ministry of the board.

"We are now seeking to develop a far-reaching strategy for publication and national distribution of Holy Scripture so Southern Baptists will have still another effective way of telling the story of Christ to everyone in the world by the end of this century," he said.

To support the priority of evangelism, Elder said, "This board will seek to saturate its excellent teaching/training efforts with outreach, witness, growth and discipleship. There will be in our spirit and in our deeds a gospel appeal to the unsaved masses of our nation."

Elder said his goal is to lead the board "to give new life to the founding dreams and magnificent heritage of our forebearers; to be shaken to our bones by spiritual awakening and dynamic doctrinal confession; to reclaim the pattern of servant leadership practiced by our Lord, and to work together as God's people in such a way that Bold Mission Thrust leaps off the pages of our documents and is written down in history in the lifeblood of a people called Baptists."

(Continued on page 5)

Elder to speak to educators

Lloyd Elder, newly installed as president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be the closing speaker Feb. 17 for the annual meeting of Mississippi Baptists' religious educators.



Elder

Biloxi, Feb. 16-18.

Elder's topic will be on the book "Megatrends" by John Naisbit and the Southern Baptist response to tremendous changes in life.

Other speakers include Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., who will talk about personal spiritual growth and Bill Hinson, pastor of First Church, New Orleans, who will discuss motivation.

Thursday, February 9, 1984

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3



Christ Temple prayer meeting on Feb. 1. Eddie Jones, pastor, is at far right.

First in Mississippi

Jackson Countians open black mission

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Jackson County Baptist Association has established the first black Southern Baptist mission in Mississippi. The association, and Ingalls Avenue Church, Pascagoula; Pineview Church, Moss Point; and First Church, Jackson, are sponsoring it.

All black Baptist churches in the state have heretofore been affiliated either with the National Baptist Convention or with one of several other Baptist conventions.

The mission, named Christ Temple, opened for services around Jan. 1 in the education building of the Pineview Church at Moss Point. Since then the attendance has ranged from 24 to 47, according to the pastor, Eddie Jones. Jones has been working in the shipyard at Pascagoula. However, he will be starting as full-time pastor on March 1, his salary paid by the mission's sponsors.

Allen Webb, director of missions, Jackson County, has called this "a major break-through in missions." He said "It shows that the walls of prejudice have crumbled in Mississippi in the interest of doing maximum work toward reaching the state for Christ."

"It balances our mission perspective. Previously we have given great attention to missions abroad, but have done so little to help reach a large segment of our population at home."

"It re-emphasizes the fact that we believe that 'God is no respecter of persons.'"

The Executive Committee of the Jackson County Association voted on Nov. 7, 1983, to proceed with plans toward establishment of black missions. The Ingalls Avenue Church, Pascagoula, on Nov. 9 adopted a recommendation to help support with \$200 a month a black Southern Baptist mission church in the area of Moss Point and to provide leadership in establishing the mission and in guiding it to become a self-supporting church. According to the pastor, Frank Hendry, the church adopted this recommendation without a single dissenting vote.

Then J. D. Lundy, pastor of Pineview, Moss Point, recommended that Pineview provide space in its educational unit to house the new congregation. The church took action to do so.

On Wednesday evening, Feb. 1, as on Wednesdays in January, a congregation was meeting in each end of the Pineview building for prayer meeting. J. D. Lundy was leading a Bible study in the sanctuary of Pineview. And Eddie Jones was leading a service in the sanctuary of Christ Temple (former education building of Pineview) by preaching a sermon on the meaning of baptism. "Getting baptized won't save us," Jones said. "Singing in the choir or being a deacon won't save us either. It takes a personal relationship between a sinner and a Savior."

First Baptist Church, Jackson, (Continued on page 8)



Pineview, Moss Point, prayer meeting on Feb. 1. J. D. Lundy, wearing tie, is the pastor. Pineview is a sponsor of Christ Temple.

Sen. Helms says Baptists may affect Vatican vote

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)—The fate of William A. Wilson's nomination as ambassador to the Vatican may depend on what Southern Baptists, and other groups opposed to the action, do in the next few weeks, Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., told Baptist Press.

Helms, a Southern Baptist, announced his plans to slow down the Senate confirmation process during a hearing where representatives of U.S. Protestant denominations, including the Southern Baptist Convention, charged the Vatican issue was moving on a fast track in the Senate without opportunity for public input.

Prior to Helms' announcement he would as Foreign Relations Committee chairman Charles H. Percy, R-Ill. for a delay, a full committee vote on the nomination was expected Feb. 7. On Jan. 30, Senate majority leader Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., told colleagues he hoped the Senate would conclude Wilson's confirmation before a Feb. 10 recess.

Helms told Baptist Press he agreed with Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr. and other witnesses from the religious community who criticized the swift congressional action to reverse the nation's 116-year-old policy against diplomatic ties with the Vatican.

Draper and the other witnesses "had a good point," Helms told Baptist Press. He added while he agrees with opponents of sending an ambassador to the Vatican, he emphasized he has no quarrels with Wilson.

His action, Helms said, has already resulted in calls from the White House urging him not to delay the confirmation. But Helms insisted it was "a mistake" for the administration to make the nomination and there is "no urgency" to speed the matter through the Senate without hearing from opponents of the move.

In September the Senate passed an amendment to a State Department authorization bill sponsored by Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind. repealing an 1867 ban on diplomatic ties to the Vatican. The House of Representatives took no action on the Lugar language. But it remained in the final bill after being accepted by a House-Senate conference committee.

Opponents of the action have a point, Helms said, in protesting the way the issue was handled. Although he repeatedly emphasized he is in no way critical of Lugar's handling of the situation, Helms said he and other senators were unaware the repeal had occurred.

If Baptists and other opponents communicate their views well, Helms suggested, members of the Senate may approach the confirmation vote saying, "Bill Wilson's a great guy, but..."

It "depends on the work" that opponents do in the interim, he concluded.

Larry Chesser is with the Washington, D.C. office of Baptist Press on the staff of the Baptist Joint Committees.

China as we saw it . . .

Part V: "Don't cry—Don't cry"

By Marvin and Jean Bond

We boarded a spiffy new Boeing 737 for our flight from Guilin to Guangzhou. South China is lush and green; it was here that we saw a lawn mower for the first time in China. (Although we had seen a woman cutting grass in one of Guilin's parks, we had also noted her tool—hand shears.)

Guangzhou's history includes revolutions; her scenery boasts the Pearl River and mountains; her restaurants are large and varied. Even the Friendship Store is bigger and better than others. And who would expect to find in that store, among Chinese hats and caps, "Ole Miss Rebels" hats for sale!

Meeting us in Guangzhou were Hong Kong missionaries Cornelia Leavell, Betty Vaught, and James and Corrine Hollis. They had been on a nostalgic journey to Wuchow, the birth place of Cornelia. Both Cornelia and the Hollises had lived in Guangzhou, so they directed taxi drivers to the Tung Shan area, the location of our former Baptist work.

While we explored, the drivers waited for us. On a hillside the former seminary houses Party headquarters; across the street, a government school operates on the campus of our girl's school Pooi To; along the street, missionary and teacher residences in need of repair and paint still function as dwellings.

We spent several minutes on the Pui Ching campus. Now Government School No. 57, Pui Ching was a famous boys' school. Many outstanding Baptist leaders graduated from that school and from its branches in Hong Kong and Macao. We had thought it unlikely that we would be allowed to enter the gates; however, Cornelia spoke to the gate keepers in her excellent Cantonese, and they nearly ran over themselves greeting her and inviting us inside to make pictures.

Then our visit to the church was special. There's a lovely story connected with the Tung Shan Church. According to legend, the church was built with pennies donated by Sunbeams in America. Whether this story is true, we do not know. What we do know is that Sunbeams and many others across the Southern Baptist Convention contributed in numerous ways to the Lord's work in China.

As we toured this portion of Baptist history, a Chinese woman who had been Baptist reared and educated joined us.

"Do you know about Mo Kwong?" She asked. Oh yes, we knew. Mo Kwong means no light, and the Mo Kwong Home had provided training and education in a Christian atmosphere for blind girls. Through the years Blue Mountain College students and graduates helped support work with the blind in South China. Even now, a foundation set up at Blue Mountain offers medical help through the Ophthalmology Clinic at Hong Kong Baptist Hospital.

Our Chinese friend recalled seeing the blind girls walk from the home to the Tung Shan Church, the sighted teacher leading the way with a piece

of string in her hand. Behind her the girls walked single file, each touching the string.

With the Tung Shan Church open for services, they again participate. Because Baptists cared enough to establish a home and school for the blind, these women, some now old, live useful lives.

Silent for a moment, our Chinese friend looked us in the eyes as she posed a haunting question. "Recently," she said, "the women asked me: 'Do they continue to remember us?'"

That question was a fitting climax for our China tour. Everyday we hear it as we are reminded to pray for the People's Republic of China.

The next day our national guide and our local guide accompanied us to the train station, the latter staying with us through customs and to the door of the waiting room. However, our national guide was not allowed inside the immigration section of the train station. One by one, outside the station, we said our farewell.

There was not a dry eye in the group. "Don't cry. Don't cry," she implored, as tears dropped from her face. "I think Baptists are very special people," she added.

Seventeen days earlier in Beijing we had sat together for our first meal. She had listened to our words: "We are Christians, and it is our custom to pray before our meals." "Oh, I know," she smiled, "You are Baptists." Even as she spoke, she extended her hands to clasp ours as we prayed. Later we learned that 18 months earlier she had been guide for another group of Americans; they, too, were Baptists who prayed before meals. A small thing, perhaps, but certainly an opportunity to show Christian values.

Our lives had met and touched for 17 short days. Although she enjoys no Christian heritage in her family, our guide seem to sense our concern. "The world is very small," she added as she said goodbye, "Perhaps we will meet again." We hope so.

Car 6 was stamped on our tickets. We found our seats and settled back

for the train ride that would take us from China to Hong Kong. Shortly thereafter, we crossed the border. Winding across the hills, a high fence defines the dividing line. Even without the reminder, one would notice the difference—drab buildings on one side of the border and fresh paint on the other.

As the train sped toward Hong Kong, memories whirled in our hearts. We remembered beautiful children clapping their hands while they sang patriotic songs, eager young people studying English, and human-drawn carts inching along the street with men and women's bodies bent under the heavy load. We will not soon forget the feeling of being set apart as foreigners or the guilt of having too much or the warmth of the Chinese. Because of our visit, freedom and the lack of it have taken on added meaning.

We were blessed with good traveling companions, ambassadors for our country and for our Lord. Our highest moments came when we stood on hallowed ground with Chinese Christians in restored churches.

It could be argued that government approved churches and pastors in a communist country, however enthusiastic the congregation may appear, are questionable. Indeed, many China observers are skeptical. But how can you be pessimistic about the future of Christianity when you realize that Christians multiplied during the years of persecution. The Communist government must be puzzled that Christianity lives in China today.

One thing for certain, we will never be the same. How can we possibly forget? Our Chinese brothers and sisters also remember.

Marvin and Jean Bond, former Southern Baptist missionaries to Hong Kong, served as hosts for a group of Southern Baptists who toured China in May 1983. This is the last in a series of five articles describing the trip. Marvin and Jean Bond may be written at 208 South Washington, Starkville, MS 39759.

Gregory named prayer coordinator for state

Jack Gregory, pastor of First Church, Poplarville, has been asked to serve as Mississippi coordinator for Southern Baptist Convention prayer efforts, according to John Sullivan SBC first vice president, and national coordinator.

Gregory will be responsible for implementing prayer information and mobilization among Mississippi Baptists. Prior to the convention, he will be one of the hosts for continuous prayer meetings in the Radisson-Muehlebach, the convention hotel; and in the convention center during the Kansas City convention, which meets June 11-14. And Gregory will be developing a prayer chain that will pray several times between now

and convention time.

A prayer room is to be set up during the convention and will be in constant contact with the convention platform. And another prayer room will be at the Radisson-Muehlebach.

Mississippi will have responsibility for having persons in the prayer room at the Radisson-Muehlebach Tuesday, June 12, 8-9 p.m. and Thursday, June 14, 7-8 a.m.

To volunteer, contact Gregory at Box 191, Poplarville, Miss. 39470, phone, 795-4531.

Initial prayer listings suggested by Sullivan include the pre-convention meetings, planners of the convention, convention officers, the preacher of the convention sermon, and special committees.

1,000 voices sought for appointment choir

A mass choir of 1,000 voices is being sought to sing at the Foreign Mission Board appointment service at the Gulf Coast coliseum, April 9, in Biloxi, according to Leon Bedsole, music chairman for the service.

Bedsole, minister of music at First Church, Biloxi, said that each church must bear its own expense for cost of music and travel. Three anthems will need to be purchased and learned by each participating choir, he said.

The mass choir will rehearse at 5 p.m. on April 9, the date of the appointment service, in the coliseum with orchestra. Lee Poquette, music assistant at First Church, Jackson, is gathering the orchestra for the event.

Pre-service music will begin at 6:40 p.m. and will include two of the anthems.

The three anthems are thematic medleys of familiar hymns by Beryl Red and Mark Blankenship. They are published by Van Ness Press, a division of Broadman Press.

The anthems are "Gifts of Life" No. 4170, which includes "Jesus is All the World to Me," "Take My Life and Let It Be," and "Something for Thee"; "Rejoice and Praise, No. 4170-02, which includes "Rejoice, the Lord is King"; "Praise Him, Praise Him"; and "Jesus Shall Reign"; and Faith and Assurance, No. 4170-04, which includes "Blessed Assurance"; and "I Know Whom I Have Believed."

Each has a set of instrumental parts and an album is available—No.

4192-03, and stereo cassette—No. 4196-03.

Suggested sources include Anthem Service, MSN 137, 127 Ninth Ave., North, Nashville, Tenn., 37234, or J & J Music, 234 N. Craft Highway, Chickasaw, Ala., 36611, toll free phone 800-633-1272.

At the keyboard will be Dot Pray, organist for Colonial Heights Church, Jackson; and Martha Dugger, pianist for First Church, Gulfport.

For more information, contact Bedsole at Box 145, Biloxi, Miss., 39533, phone 374-3310. He needs to know how many are participating.

Couple loses home study bid

WASHINGTON (BP)—A Pentecostalist North Carolina couple lost a final legal bid to educate their children at home when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review a lower federal court decision upholding the state's compulsory school attendance law.

Peter and Carol Duro moved to Tyrrell County, N.C., in 1981 but refused to enroll their five school-age children in either public or private schools on grounds they did not want them exposed to secular humanism or "unisex" habits. Because of their belief in faith healing, they also objected to the schools' practice of providing medical care for injured or sick children.



Enjoy exciting **GOLF** on the **GULF**

SUN CHASER SPECIAL \$148.50
(per person — double occupancy)

5 Days - 4 Nites / Feb. 1 - June 1

- \$25 Food Allowance
- 8 Championship Golf Courses
- Game Room
- Golfers Get Together Every Wednesday
- Free Golf Cap
- 5 Rounds of Golf

Gulf-front, heated pool, beach, cable color TV, spacious rooms, suites, dining room, entertainment, game room, children's play area. Year-round golf, fresh/salt water-fishing, sightseeing, 26 miles of white sandy beach. 2 blks. to Edgewater Shopping Mall (over 143 stores). Group rates, various package plans. Children under 18 free accompanied by parents.

Gentlemen: Please send free brochure, rates:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____



**BILOXI BEACH
MOTOR INN**

• PHONE •
601/388-3310

4650 W. BEACH BLVD. Dept. 207
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI 39531

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

"A you-shaped hole"

"Twenty ways to show your husband your love." That's an article by Gretchen Giles in the February 1984 *Home Life*. I kept the list lying around handy, because I wanted to practice a few. Of course, some of the suggestions I'd already been doing, and there are additions I could make to this list. But there are some excellent and easy-to-do ideas here and the ones I tried brought immediate results—a pleased and happy smile. For "pour him a steaming cup of coffee"—I went a step further and served it to him in bed.

"What do you want now?" he said. And well he might ask. I'm always wanting something from him! And he rarely says no. Mama was right when she said the two of us are so different that each of us supplies just what the other needs, and she thinks neither of us could get along without the other—and especially I couldn't, I expect she is too polite to say to me.

With only a little nudging, my memory brings requests I've made of him:

Will you open this for me? I hate these 'child-proof' medicine bottles! We don't have any children here. Why don't they sell us some simple ones that adults can open?

Which end of this sack is supposed to open? Oh, me, I'll never get out of this grocery store. Here, can you open it?

Unhang my zipper.

Can you turn off this shower so it will stop dripping?

Would you please cut this hangnail? I can't do it with my left hand.

Can you untangle this slide projector?

Can you undo the latch on this garment bag? It's stuck. Not stuck? Oh,

I'm just not working it right?

Would you please change the ribbon on my typewriter?

Did I subtract this right? I can't get this checkbook balanced. Would you check my arithmetic?

Rearrange the dishes in the washer so they'll stop knocking—please?

Will you help me find my glasses?

Hold my purse while I take this picture?

Check that front tire. Do you think it looks flat?

Could you have supper ready early so I can get to that church meeting on time for a change?

Would you drive me to the Coast so I can study on the way?

Please listen to this speech and see if it's too long.

Help me decide which color dress looks the best.

Help me listen to this tape. There's noise in the background and I don't know what's going on.

Would you mind listening while I say my memory verses?

"What do you want now?" he asks. For once—nothing. Except to say "I love you" and "Happy Birthday" and "Be My Valentine," and (like I heard Leo Buscaglia say one night on television) "Without you there would be a you-shaped hole in the world."

There's another article in that *Home Life* magazine. It has a quiz for scoring husbands or wives. I admit he is not perfect. He has one or two negative qualities, but on all the positive ones I gave him a 10—patient, kind, faithful, helpful, longsuffering, truthful, trusting, steadfast.

Last year he gave me a Valentine. I want to send its message back: "I need your love . . . I need the warmth and trust you give—I need you every day I live."

Thursday, February 9, 1984

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Beirut: bombs, bullets, barbed wire—and Baptists

By David King

(Editor's note: David King, a Southern Baptist missionary in Lebanon since 1959, wrote this unsolicited letter to the Foreign Mission Board. It is offered as a first person news analysis of Lebanon today.)

WEST BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—A few years ago I wrote an article entitled "Learning to Live With Guns." Now it is far more than guns. It is car bombs, mortar bombs and airplane bombs! It is artillery shells, long range rockets, rocket-propelled grenades, naval artillery, tank cannons, recoilless rifles and all manner of smaller guns.

Embassies and institutions of all the member countries of the multinational "peacekeeping" force are now barricaded by razor-sharp barbed wire atop earth mounds all around. Streets are sealed off. Traffic, already chaotic and jammed in Beirut, has gotten worse.

Is there any hope for a solution?

Most observers are pessimistic. The truth is, unless attitudes change, conflicts in the Middle East will continue to rage and to take their toll in lives lost and property destroyed, people maimed, and bitterness engendered by increasing self-righteousness. People will continue to blame other parties for the mess and refuse to acknowledge any responsibility for what is happening. So far there is no indication of any willingness to repent or to forgive or to back down or even to compromise for the sake of the common good.

The answer is obvious to those who know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and have experienced his transforming power. Only Christ can transform hate to love, jealousy to forgiveness, ashes to beauty, tears of sadness to tears of joy. Christ is the only hope. But because religion and politics are com-

pletely interwoven in the Lebanese system, the very mention of Christ has political overtones.

"I was afraid maybe you were one of those murdering Christians."

One little girl at our Baptist school asked the missionary principal's wife, Leola Ragland, "Are you a Christian?" Mrs. Ragland answered with tact and Holy Spirit wisdom, "I love Jesus." The little girl sighed with relief and said, "Oh good. I was afraid maybe you were one of those murdering Christians." How ironic! What a travesty on the name of Christ!

Eleven Baptist churches and assorted missions are trying to overcome such an image by: proclaiming the truths of God's word about man's sinfulness and God's love and the transforming power of the gospel; demonstrating that Christianity means love—not hate, brotherhood—not bombs, forgiveness—not revenge, helpfulness, kindness, gentleness and peace; and demonstrating Christ's love through distributing thousands of dollars in aid to stricken families.

Some families have lost their homes and everything they own. Often families have lost breadwinners, who have been killed or hospitalized.

Churches are reaching out in love to their members and others in need in their communities in the name of Jesus—the name which more than any other crosses barriers and touches people's hearts.

No, we haven't seen any widespread turning to Christ as yet, though we long for that to happen and do all we can to stimulate it. But here and there, in ones and twos, some-

times in threes and fours, people are coming to Christ, finding in him peace, comfort and courage in the midst of trial.

Shells are exploding as I write this. One just whooshed over the house and crashed in flames below us on the hillside. But the Lord Jesus is here and he is our peace.

We are thankful to God that Baptist churches are ministers of reconciliation in the midst of bombs, bullets and barbed wire!

(David King has been a Southern Baptist missionary in Lebanon since 1959.)

Book Reviews

MASTER STUDY BIBLE, KING JAMES VERSION, Holman Bible Publishers, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tenn 37234; \$27.95 to \$100; 2,208 pages plus maps.

This is a companion Bible to the New American Standard Master Study Bible released earlier by Holman, an arm of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. The publishers call this Bible a Bible worthy of its name. A user's guide points out that the Bible has a number of study aids. The most significant, the user's guide says, is the encyclopedia. This is 560 pages containing thousands of entries of people, places, and events arranged alphabetically.

The center column reference system have more than 100,000 notes on the text. Also in the center references are alternate readings for unfamiliar and hard to translate words and information on Greek and Hebrew words in the early manuscripts.

Other study aids include a parallel of the gospels by A. T. Robertson, a 1,000-page concordance, and a section on the life and teachings of Jesus.

In addition there is a section on reading and studying the Bible. This section presents as subjects "The Land of the People of the Bible," "The Languages of the Bible," "The Early Manuscripts of the Bible," "The Archaeology of the Bible," "A Thematic Approach to Bible Study," "How to Study the Bible," and a plan for reading the Bible through.

Then of great interest is the information that is to be found at the beginning of each book. This includes an outline of the book, a survey of the book, and information about the author or a discussion of who the author is supposed to have been or who he might have been. The Bible I saw was a beautiful volume in blue and gold. It is a red-letter edition, and the type is of good size and easily legible. The only complaint is that the volume I had was printed too close to the inside margin, making it a little awkward to open the book far enough to read easily. This was not a great problem, but it was not a characteristic of the earlier New American Standard Bible. Both volumes would make valuable additions to any library.

There are seven pages of full-color maps and a map index. The Bible also has a presentation page and pages for family information.—DTM

Elder is installed

(Continued from page 3)

Cothen presented a Bible, a presidential medallion, and scroll to Elder as symbols of the office. "I hope this office brings to you the great joy of Christian service it has brought to me," Cothen said.

"No man has held the office which you assume without a deep and abiding faith in the total reliability of the Word of God. You have that conviction. What the world needs now is what God can do," Cothen noted.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, urged Elder to emphasize spiritual ministry, helping churches and magnifying Jesus Christ. "Love your work, fellow staff members, the Southern Baptist Convention, and members of the churches," Bennett said. "Remember the assignment is to bring people to a place where they can enter the presence of the kingdom of God."

(Linda Lawson writes for the Sunday School Board.)



Lloyd Elder, installed Jan. 31 as the seventh president of the Sunday School Board, received the presidential medallion from retiring president Grady C. Cothen. BP photo by Doug Breachey.

Nebraska pastor returns, declares war on state

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa (EP)—Declaring war on Nebraska Gov. Bob Kerrey and vowing a three-pronged boycott of some major Nebraska industries, Everett Sileven fled Nebraska on Jan. 19 and took refuge in this community across the Missouri River. Sileven, the minister of the Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, Neb., said he would not remain in Nebraska and risk being jailed. He was flanked by a handful of ministers from across the country during his announcement.

On Jan. 18, Sileven had returned to Louisville in a helicopter, even though a warrant is out for his arrest in Nebraska. Cass County District Judge Ronald Reagan has ordered Sileven jailed for refusing to answer questions about the private church school, which operates in the church's basement without a state license or certification for its teachers. The school has four students.

"We declare war, here and now on this tyrant system which threatens

the freedoms of every American," Sileven said. Furthermore, he and the other ministers with him in the Council Bluffs motel said they would "encourage Christians everywhere" to boycott the Mutual of Omaha Insurance Co., Bankers Life Nebraska insurance company, and Nebraska tourism.

In that vein, he said, they want Christians sympathetic to their struggle to bypass Nebraska's motels, sights, attractions, service stations, amusement parks, and restaurants because tourism represents the state's third-largest industry. Asked why he was singling out those who have not voiced opposition to the school's battle, Sileven said, "We're not trying to punish the companies; we're trying to motivate them."

B.C. Gillespie, who said he is president of Kentuckians for Religious Freedom, said of the companies, "They have not done anything, but they did not stand up for decency when they could have."

Grady Cothen is lauded as Baptists' friend and servant

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Grady C. Cothen, described as a denominational servant and friend of Southern Baptists, was honored on the eve of his retirement by friends and Baptist leaders for a distinguished career of service to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Cothen, who retired after nine years as president of the Baptist Sunday School Board on Jan. 31, has shared a remarkable career with Southern Baptists, according to master of ceremonies William G. Tanner, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

In more than 40 years, Cothen has been a pastor, executive secretary-treasurer of a state convention, and president of a Baptist university, a seminary, and an SBC agency.

Testimonies of Cothen's influence into various arenas of Southern Baptist life were offered by persons who had worked with him at different

points in his career.

Robert Lynn, president of Louisiana College, Pineville, called Cothen "my model in Christian higher education." He said Baptist college and university leaders had found in Cothen an "enduring counsel who gave them confidence by his example." Lynn was assistant to Cothen when he was president of Oklahoma Baptist University.

Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., said, "Grady Cothen loves the churches, people, and programs of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Duke K. McCall, former president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and president of the Baptist World Alliance, lauded Cothen for his concern for evangelizing the world and having the vision and courage to do something about it. According to McCall, when he asked Cothen to serve as chairman of the education

division of the Baptist World Alliance, Cothen said, "Let's don't talk about world evangelism, let's do it."

As a tribute to Cothen's leadership, McCall announced a gift from trustees of the board to the BWA Christian Literature Project, which will provide several thousand mini-libraries for worldwide distribution to Baptist pastors in other countries who "are struggling to fulfill God's call with few resources."

Each of the mini-libraries will consist of 12-15 books, including a Holman Master Study Bible, a hymnal, concordance and other basic resources for use in study and sermon preparation.

The most emotional moment of the evening came when James Hatley, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., read a message from a former government official who said Cothen had been instrumental in leading him to become a Christian and had ministered to him through personal crisis.

Hatley said he had received the message by telephone from members of the family of the man only hours after the man's death on the morning of Jan. 30.

Additional tributes received to honor Cothen included letters from President Ronald Reagan and former President Jimmy Carter; and certificates of appreciation from Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander; the Office of the Chief of Chaplains, United States Navy; New Orleans Seminary, and the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

Because of Cothen's frequent references to fishing, state executive secretaries compiled a book of favorite fishing spots for Cothen in each of their states, accompanied by an invitation to try his luck whenever possible.

Alton McEachern, chairman of the board of trustees, presented Cothen a car, a satellite receiving antenna and other gifts from the trustees in honor of his retirement. McEachern is pastor of First Baptist Church, Greensboro, N.C.

In response to the tributes and praise, Cothen said it "has been my high privilege and honor to spend my life with the elect people of the earth."

(Lowry writes for the Sunday School Board.)

Baptism listing

For the report of the number of baptisms in last week's **Baptist Record**, the information received indicated that Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, had recorded 85 baptisms during the past year. That figure is incorrect, and the correct total is 105. Main Street was third in the state in total baptisms.



A large private dwelling and grounds encompassing a city block are the location for a new church in Asuncion, Paraguay. The church, Getsemani, has 70 members and 120 in Sunday School. The church rents the property, but it is available for purchase. Two members of the church were in Jackson recently and spoke during prayer services at Woodville Heights Church. Woodville Heights pastor, Carl Savell, will be in Asuncion in March.



Andres Rivarola, left, and Marcelino Maidana Scappini, center, both of Asuncion, Paraguay, visited Jackson recently. Their host was Carl Savell, right, pastor of Woodville Heights Church, Jackson. Savell will visit Paraguay in March.

Asuncion Baptists begin strategic new church

Two members of a new congregation in Asuncion, Paraguay, were in Mississippi recently; and while they were in Jackson they gave details of what they described as strategic new property that is available in downtown Asuncion.

The congregation, formed in October, is meeting in the facility now on a rental basis. It is a private home, and the grounds around it encompass a city block. The house, a sizeable structure, and all of the grounds are available, the members said.

The two members are Marcelina Maidana Scappini, a businesswoman in Asuncion, and Andres Rivarola, who directs the broadcast ministries for Paraguayan Baptists. On Wednesday evening, Jan. 25, while they were in Jackson, the two spoke in the prayer service of Woodville Heights Church. Carl Savell, pastor of Woodville Heights, will be in Asuncion in March for conferences at the Baptist institute and for other conferences that will develop. He will also be delivering stewardship messages in churches in the city. Mississippi Baptists have a partnership arrangement with Baptists in Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina.

The new church in Asuncion has 70 members, Rivarola, who speaks English, said. The Sunday School attendance averages about 120. The downtown location and the attractiveness of the property give the church the ability to witness to a more affluent segment than is generally the case, he added.

The owner has placed the property on the market at \$700,000 in United States money. It is located on Lopez Avenue, one of the main thoroughfares of downtown Asuncion.

The name of the church is Getsemani (Gethsemane). The pastor is Cristian Ganzer.

Home Missions Awareness Tour April 2-14, 1984

Visit Home Missions sites featured in 1983-1984 study books. Motorcoach tour begins in Atlanta with visits to Mission Boards, mission sites in NYC, Charleston, Philadelphia, Boston. Visit historic sites, Niagara Falls, BSSB, and Grand Ole Opry.

COST: \$689.00 from Atlanta. Groups traveling in church vans/buses permissible.

Escorted by Howard and Jean Girard, MSC volunteers.

For more information, contact:

Echols Tours
Box 65508
Birmingham, AL 35215
1-800-551-2334



Bettye and Grady Cothen were serenaded by a string ensemble as part of "A Celebration of Denominational Service" honoring them for 40 years of service to the denomination. Cothen retired Jan. 31 as president of the Sunday School Board.—BP photo by David F. Haywood.

Judges refuse to review case

WASHINGTON (BP)—In the latest round of a longstanding dispute with the Federal Communications Commission, a California church has failed to convince Supreme Court justices to review its charges that the powerful federal agency was guilty of fraudulent misconduct in refusing to renew the church's TV license.

The battle between Faith Center, Inc., of San Bernardino, Calif. and the FCC dates to 1977, when the federal regulatory body demanded access to financial records and videotapes from the congregation and its station, KHOF-TV. The FCC demands were made following complaints the church's pastor, W. Eugene Scott, used the airwaves for fraudulent solicitation of funds.

Following three years in which

Scott refused to turn over the records, the FCC denied the station's routine application for a license renewal. Scott then took the government to court but lost when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia sustained the denial. The Supreme Court declined last year to review that ruling.

In the new round of proceedings, Faith Center charged the FCC with concealing the fact that its investigation of the church and TV station was prompted by what it called false allegations by the church's former attorney. The lawyer, who was fired by the church, was subsequently suspended from the California bar for misconduct. (83-966, Faith Center, Inc., v. Federal Communications Commission.)

Cooperative Program lags behind budget needs

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—First quarter gifts to the national Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention were almost \$1.5 million above the first three months of the last fiscal year but still fell behind budget needs.

December contributions of \$8,848,602 were a monthly record and reflected a 2.2 percent increase over December 1982. That was the smallest monthly percentage increase since February 1982 and the ninth lowest in the past 10 years.

The first accurate budget projects will not be available until after January figures are included, according to Tim Hedquist, director of financial planning for the SBC Executive Committee. "You never know how much you will be under or over a budget until this last day of the budget year," he said. "You can't just multiply the first quarter receipts by four."

"We are behind; but, right now, it's hard to say with any accuracy how much we are behind."

The first quarter gifts of \$25,506,291 are 6.21 percent ahead of the first quarter of 1982-83. Comparatively, the national Cooperative Program received only \$8.87 million the first quarter of 1973-74 and \$16.6 million five years ago.

The basic operating budget for the SBC in 1983-84 is \$114.5 million, and the combined basic and challenge budget is \$125 million.

Texas, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi were the leaders among the state conventions the first quarter as they were ranked in the top 10 in both total dollar gifts and percentage increase in gifts over last year.

Texas was first in total giving (\$4,462,261) and eighth in percentage increase (10.13). Florida was third (\$1,831,829) and fourth (17.44); Georgia was second (\$2,112,212) and ninth (9.94), and Mississippi was ninth (\$1,238,535) and seventh (10.63).

The Kansas-Nebraska convention was the percentage increase leader, giving 134.42 percent (\$111,015) more to the Cooperative Program in the first three months than last year.

West Virginia was second (18.91), Maryland was third (18.63), Michigan was fifth (12.80), Arkansas was sixth (11.87) and Illinois was tenth (9.80).

Other total dollars leaders were: North Carolina (fourth, \$1,798,297); Alabama (fifth, \$1,719,063); Oklahoma (sixth, \$1,687,134); Tennessee (seventh, \$1,529,360); South Carolina (eighth, \$1,357,947) and Virginia (tenth, \$1,219,801).

Craig to teach doctrine book

The Baptist doctrine study for 1984 is "The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit" by Landrum Leavell, II.



Earl Craig, pastor, First Church, Jackson, will lead two preview seminars to equip persons to teach the book. These seminars will be held on March 5 at First Church, Hattiesburg, and March 6, at First Church, Grenada. Both sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at noon.

This study will help the learner gain a mature understanding of who the Holy Spirit is, how he works in our lives, what the Bible has to say about the Holy Spirit, and what most Baptists believe about the Holy Spirit.

Also, the Holy Spirit's divinity, personhood, work in the world, and relationship to the Christian as an ever-present counselor and source of power will be discussed.

Other doctrinal study books that are available for age-groups are: For youths, "Youth Affirm: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit;" for older children, "I Can Know God;" for younger children, "Ways We Know God;" for older preschoolers, "Discovering Sounds;" and for younger preschoolers, "Animal Friends."



Christian Action officers

Raymon Leake, second from left, pastor of First Church, Picayune, was elected chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission during its recent meeting. Other new officers elected were, left to right, Sue Tatum, Yazoo City, secretary, and Mrs. James Hitt, Jackson, vice-chairman. At right is Paul Jones, executive director-treasurer.

Two handbell festivals will be held in March

Two handbell festivals will be held in the state in March—a first for Mississippi, according to Perry Robinson, handbell specialist with the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Handbell choirs may choose to attend

one—or both. The schedule will be the same for both—Friday, 7 p.m. until Saturday at 2:30 p.m.

The Gulfshore festival will be held March 2 and 3. The Tupelo festival will be held March 23 and 24, at Harrisburg Church.

At Gulfshore, R. E. Thompson will be the clinician. He is the handbell consultant for Louisiana Baptists and minister of music at Calvary Church, New Orleans. He has taught handbells at New Orleans seminary and served as a clinician at the Ridgecrest Music Conference.

Those attending Gulfshore will stay on the grounds and eat at the cafeteria.

At the Tupelo Festival, James Whitmire will be the clinician. He has served as a clinician for several states as well as in the Church Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. He has developed an extensive handbell program at Bellevue Church, Memphis, where he serves as youth music minister.

Each choir may play two pieces of their choice (not festival pieces) for adjudication, not to exceed six minutes, Robinson said.

The massed ringing pieces will represent two hymns, four original pieces, a transcribed keyboard piece, and a patriotic piece.

January gifts are \$1,348,472

January gifts to the Cooperative Program from Mississippi Baptist churches totaled \$1,348,472, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

This is only \$25,278 under the pro rata budget for the month which would have been \$1,373,750.

Total Mississippi budget for the Cooperative Program for 1984 is \$16,485,000. The 1983 budget was \$14,943,320. This is a 10.3 percent increase for 1984.

If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall in the ditch.—Matthew 15:14.

Work of women is confab theme in New Orleans

A conference on the work of women in Southern Baptist life featuring Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union will be presented by New Orleans Seminary Feb. 13-14.

The two-session conference entitled "For Ladies Only" is part of the seminary's continuing education program. Each session will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude at 9:30 p.m. The meetings will be held in Martin Chapel on the seminary campus at 3939 Gentilly Blvd.

Sessions will feature discussion of the response of women to God's love, the Christian woman in today's world, and the Woman's Missionary Union as a strategy for missions. Registration fee for the conference is \$3 and the meetings are open to all interested women.

For more information about this special conference contact Thomas A. Kinchen at New Orleans Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La. 70126.

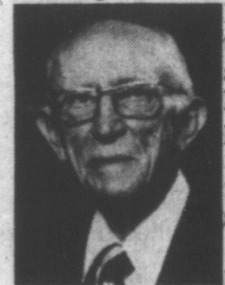
TV study shows more profanity

TUPELO, Miss. (EP)—If you think you are hearing more profanity on television, you are right, according to a study made by the Coalition for Better Television. The coalition says profanity during the fall of 1983 increased 140 percent compared to a similar study during the fall of 1982. Donald E. Wildmon, a United Methodist minister and chairman of the coalition, said the study covered 1,294 hours of prime-time viewing and involved approximately 2,400 monitors in 30 states.

CBS increased the amount of profanity 182.4 percent during the period, while NBC showed an increase of 171.2 percent. ABC profanity was up 65.8 percent. CBS was the top profanity-oriented network, with NBC next and ABC third. The networks averaged more than eight profane incidents per hour, according to the study.

Havner schedules evangelism lectures

Vance Havner of North Carolina, noted preacher and author, will serve as the guest lecturer for the annual Evangelism Lectureship at Mississippi College Feb. 20-22. The public has been invited to attend the various sessions.



Havner, former pastor of the First Baptist Church in Charleston, S.C., the oldest Baptist church in the South, will be speaking during chapel ceremonies at 10 a.m. in Nelson Auditorium on Monday and Wednesday. He will address the Baptist Student Union at 6:15 p.m. on Monday, and throughout the three days will be visiting various religious classes in Provine Chapel.

Bishop wins cemetery fuss

WASHINGTON (BP)—A long-simmering dispute between an Indiana Roman Catholic priest and his parish's cemetery association was finally settled here when the Supreme Court upheld a state court decision favoring the priest and his bishop.

St. Paul's Parish, Valparaiso, Ind., chartered a cemetery association in 1903 and for 70 years all went well. But in 1974 the association set up a

permanent trust for the cemetery's perpetual care under separate incorporation papers. The parish priest, automatically a member of the cemetery association, was excluded from membership on the new board.

Although a trial court ruled against the bishop, a state appeals panel overturned that decision, holding that in a hierarchical church, property in dispute belongs to the mother church, not to the local congregation.

Mississippi Baptist Activities

- Feb. 12 Race Relations Sunday (CAC Emphasis)
- Feb. 12-18 Focus on WMU (WMU Emphasis)
- Feb. 13 Sunday School Adult 8.5 by '85 Growth Emphasis Conference; FBC, Tupelo; 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (SS)
- Feb. 14 Sunday School Adult 8.5 by '85 Growth Emphasis Conference; FBC, Greenwood; 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (SS)

JOURNALISM POSITION

Wayland Baptist University

New position available immediately as result of recently revitalized mass communications program. Person needed to direct student radio station and student publications, teach journalism and radio. M.A. minimum, Ph.D. preferred.

Salary and rank open, depending upon qualifications and experience. Nine-month position with possible summers. Appointment date: Fall 1984.

Letters of application, transcripts and confidential papers should be directed by April 1 to:

Dr. John Mitchell, Chairman
Mass Communications Search Committee
1900 W. 7th Street
Plainview, TX 79072-6998

Wayland Baptist University is a Christian liberal arts institution with approximately 1,800 students and is located in Plainview, Texas, a city of some 25,000 people on the High Plains, south of Amarillo and north of Lubbock. Degrees are granted on the associate, bachelor's and master's levels.

Wayland Baptist University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.

Staff Changes

Gene Henderson has accepted the pastorate of First Church, Greenville, and goes there from the pastorate of Fairview, Columbus, where he has served since 1976. Henderson was born at Batesville. He received the B.A. degree from Mississippi College and doctor of theology degree from New Orleans Seminary. He was ordained at West Marks Church, Marks. Henderson and his wife, Dorothy, have five children.

Floyd Seymour recently became the pastor of Williamsburg Church, Collins. He was ordained to the gospel ministry on Feb. 5 at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, Fred Selby Jr., pastor.

Trinity Church, Laurel, has called Tracy Simmons of Laurel as its first minister of Music. Miss Simmons will work with the adult and youth choirs and in other music-oriented capacities. She received an associate of arts degree from Jones County Junior College and attended William Carey College before receiving a bachelor of music degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1983.

Miss Simmons performed the closing vocal message at the Mississippi Baptist Evangelism-Bible Conference at First Church, Gulfport, on Monday night, Feb. 6. Jake Williams is the pastor at Trinity.

Cottrell will run Great Wall

ATLANTA (BP)—Stan Cottrell of Tucker, Ga., has announced plans to run the Great Wall of China this fall, the first person to attempt the feat.

Cottrell, 40, is a member of Atlanta's First Baptist Church and has won numerous awards and set several records for long distance running.

The run will include 2,800 of the wall's 4,000 miles due to restrictions set by the Chinese government. The run is being supported by the government-supported China Sports Service which controls sporting events within that nation.

The run is expected to take 55 days, starting north of Beijing, China, in mid-September and finishing near Canton. A support team will travel with Cottrell for the run.

Cottrell is from Munfordville, Ky., and has been recognized around the world for his running. He is former world record holder for running across America (48 days), and former world record holder for a five-day endurance run (405 miles) and a 24 hour run (167.25 miles).

Cottrell's Friendship Sports Association plans evangelistic rallies along the routes of his run where allowed.

Devotional

What is tomorrow worth?

By Peter McLeod, pastor, First, Hattiesburg
Isaiah 39

It is said that statesmen look to the next generation, but politicians look to the next election. By that standard Hezekiah was a politician par excellence.

Hezekiah was king of Judah for 28 years. During his reign he reorganized the government, repaired and cleansed the temple, stamped out idolatry, and won an important victory over the Philistines. He was a good and effective ruler. But, at the high point of his career he made a tragic mistake that had long term implications.

Following a critical illness he was visited by some Babylonian leaders who came, supposedly, to congratulate him for his recovery and the efficacy of his prayers. Hezekiah rose to the occasion and strutted around his palace showing the Babylonian visitors the treasures, the arsenal, and all the resources of Judah.

When Isaiah, the prophet, heard what was going on he rushed to the palace and warned the king that his Babylonian guests were there to con him into an alliance with them against Assyria. This, Isaiah warned, was against God's will and predicted that the end result would be disastrous for the nation and spell curtains for the royal house. To this sobering word Hezekiah responds by saying, "The word of the Lord which you have spoken is good" thinking to himself that peace and security would last out his lifetime" (Isaiah 39:8, NEV).

It is hard to imagine a more irresponsible attitude toward the future than that. This is the posture of a man too old to dream, too tired to care, and too secure to feel.

The Hezekiah mentality, being flippant about the future, is the growing mind-set of our society. As Christians we must ask and answer the question, "What is tomorrow worth?" Then, with the help of God, pray, plan, and work at making our tomorrows worthwhile for our generation and for generations yet unknown.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



What would life be without it?

By Marvin Bond, layman, First Church, Starkville

Have you ever considered what Baptist life would be like without a Cooperative Program? Under such conditions state conventions would be functionally weak at best. Undoubtedly, there would be very little in way of assistance to churches from the national or state level.

There would be very few Baptist retreats, assemblies, colleges and schools, hospitals, children's villages, and other institutions on the state level. Our convention's Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Radio and TV Commission, and seminaries would have to exert much effort to exist. There would probably be very little denominational literature. Our ministers would be greatly dependent upon opportunities for theological training provided by other denominations or individuals.

We should all express our gratitude to God that a vision was given to Baptist leaders decades ago to provide us with an effective way to spread the Good News throughout the world.

I am a Southern Baptist by conviction—all that I am and all my faith in God have been nurtured in a Southern Baptist environment—and for this I am deeply in debt. I am convinced that the Cooperative Program is a very important element in God's plan for Southern Baptists. It provides the fiscal dimension for attempting great things for God on a global basis. No other single program conceived by men has blessed my life in such a rich way.

First, and foremost, my public acceptance of Jesus occurred almost 40 years ago in a Southern Baptist church. Since that time I have participated as a member of numerous congregations as my place of residence changed. All of these churches have been led by pastors who had received training in seminaries provided through the Cooperative Program. It was my privilege to attend one of our seminaries for a year and

to receive teachings from men of God who were well versed in the fundamentals of the Bible.

The year's study in one of our seminaries was preparatory for mission service in Hong Kong, where we witnessed many glorious events that Cooperative Program gifts made possible. We had the privilege of teaching in Hong Kong Baptist College, working in a Chinese church, and witnessing many young people coming to Jesus through these ministries.

We have personally made use of our Baptist hospitals for health care and our Baptist camps and assemblies (Garaywa, Gulfshore, Ridgcrest, and Glorieta) to broaden our understanding of the scriptures and for personal enrichment.

During a recent visit to China (May, 1983), it was my privilege to meet with the dean of the theological seminary in Nanjing. I started the conversation by saying that I am a Southern Baptist and was quite surprised with his response. He said, with pride, that his faith is Baptist, and that his education was in Shanghai and Ling Nam Universities. Shanghai University was supported by Southern Baptists, while Ling Nam was supported by several evangelical mission boards. His life had been blessed through facilities, teachers, and churches provided through the Cooperative Program; and my life was blessed by talking with someone whose faith had been adequate for 30 difficult years.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to participate in world missions as a Southern Baptist through my own church. The Cooperative Program does much for me, for my church, and the denomination; but above all else, it provides a channel for us to work collectively in a way that brings glory to Jesus Christ. The Cooperative Program is the best way!

Expert refutes gambling claims

By David Wilkinson

WASHINGTON (BP)—Despite recent trends toward its legalization, illegal gambling still ranks as a major source of revenue for organized crime in the United States, according to an FBI expert of organized crime activities.

Sean McWeeney, chief of the organized crime section in the FBI's criminal investigation division, told Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission staff member Larry Braidfoot that gambling joins narco-

tics and labor racketeering as the most lucrative ventures of organized crime. Braidfoot, who has led the denominational agency's efforts to inform and mobilize Southern Baptist opposition to gambling, met with McWeeney in McWeeney's Washington office.

The FBI official refused to confirm estimates of revenues generated for organized crime by gambling, since such estimates "are not part of the FBI's job." Some gambling experts

have estimated \$26-30 billion comes annually from organized crime's gambling operations.

McWeeney also refuted claims of pro-gambling forces that legalized gambling, particularly state lotteries, reduces illegal gambling activities and thereby bites into the pocketbook of organized crime.

He cited recent studies of legal gambling in New Jersey and of off-track betting in New York as evidence the result may be the opposite. "The major track problem," he pointed out, "is credit. Legal gambling creates new gamblers who switch over to illegal gambling when their money is exhausted. They switch to the illegal games because they can get credit."

McWeeney identified illegal sports bookmaking as the number one money producer for organized crime's gambling activities, due primarily to the immense popularity of pro football. Sports gambling, he said, would be followed by pari-mutuel gambling (mostly on horse races), illegal lotteries, and casino gambling, in that order.

McWeeney sympathized with the difficulties in educating the public about the threats posed by gambling and its ties with organized crime.

"Small individual bets by themselves don't seem significant," he explained. "But millions of these small bets provide an enormous source of income which can then be used in other organized crime activities like the narcotics trade."

"Those who go overboard in their betting are likely to wind up getting involved with loan sharks. Only then, when they are unable to pay the exorbitant fees, do they run into the violent aspect of organized crime."

(David Wilkinson writes for the Christian Life Commission.)

Jackson Countians start mission

(Continued from page 3)

joined the group of mission sponsors in mid-January. On Jan. 13, the Missions Committee of First Church and Schuyler Batson, assistant pastor, met with the other sponsors in Pas-

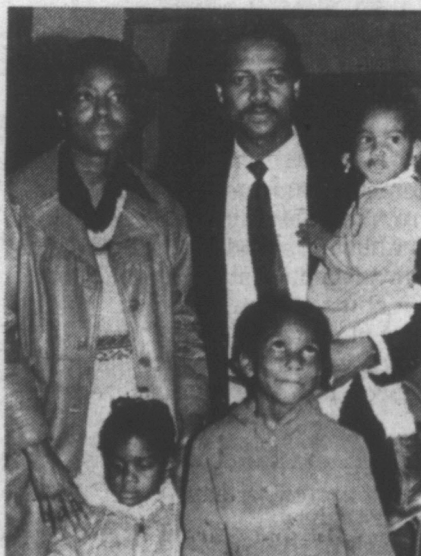
cagoula. As a result, First Church agreed to give enough financial assistance that the Christ Temple pastor might be full-time and not bivouac.

Pastor Jones said, "I'm so uplifted and so excited about this whole thing that I can hardly sleep!" In addition to his other duties, he has been teaching a regular Bible study at the shipyard, serving as a volunteer counselor at the county youth court, and studying through Seminary Extension on Thursday nights.

Jones, born at Bassville, was graduated from high school in Carriere and attended Pearl River Junior College. His wife, Barbara, is a nurse (LPN) and studied at Prentiss High School, Pearl River, Junior College, and Gulf Coast Junior College. She is a native of Chicago. The Joneses have three daughters, Regina, Kena, and Christina.

David Lee is director of ministries for Jackson County.

Of this mission venture, Allen Webb said, "We thank God for this new opportunity of service for our Master. It opens the door to a great avenue of soul winning in our area."



Barbara and Eddie Jones, pastor and wife at the new mission, Christ Temple, Moss Point, have three daughters, Kena, Regina, and Christina.

Romanian student left home to come to United States

By John Dellis

WACO, Texas (BP)—Corina Gheorghita has not returned home since she went away to college three years ago. What's more, she probably never will.

If Gheorghita, a senior at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, returned to Romania, "I would be arrested by the secret police. If I ever wanted a job in Romania, I would have to renounce my Christian faith and I would never be allowed to leave Romania again," she said.

Gheorghita said she would be interrogated because she has stayed in the United States longer than the three months for which she was originally granted permission.

The reasons for coming to the United States—and remaining—revolve around the Christian convictions of her family.

"People in the United States do not have to count the costs of being a Christian," Gheorghita said. "In Romania, the people are oppressed and persecuted by the government. If the president of a company became a Christian, he would lose his job."

Certain jobs and positions and access to some schools and universities include schools of philosophy and law are not open to Christians. The Romanian government also reads all of the mail and monitors all telephone calls going in and out of the country, she charged.

"When I write my parents, I have to write in a way not to get them or me in trouble," she said. "I number all of my letters, so my parents will know if the government keeps one."

"They censored one of my letters which contained a picture of an American Christian singing group. When I talk with my parents on the telephone, the government sounds

'beeps' when my parents try to tell me things the government would not want me to know," she said.

The Communist Party gained strength in Romania, a small country on the Black Sea in southeastern Europe, under the protection of Soviet troops in 1944. The Russian troops stayed until the late 1950s and communist dictatorship was established in 1947.

Of the 22.8 million citizens, 75 percent are members of the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Gheorghita was reared in a Baptist home, and graduated from Decebal High School in Romania in the summer of 1979. She has one brother, a senior physics major at the University of Romania, and one sister, who is 12 years old.

"Because my parents are not members of the Communist Party and because of their Christian faith, my brother will never be allowed to go on to advanced research like he wants," she said. "My mother taught biology, but lost her job because of her Christian faith. She now works as a taxidermist at a museum."

Her father had been an endocrinologist until he decided to become a minister. He is pastor of the largest Baptist church in Romania, with a membership of 2,000.

"My father was ordained in January 1982," she said. "He had been a lay preacher all these years and received his training from missionaries and from books smuggled into Romania. His best friend studied religion at Oxford University and preached in Romania before he was forced to immigrate to the United States."

Although her father is a full-time minister, the government still pres-

sures him to return to practicing medicine. His church is in the town of Oradea, 120 miles from the family's home in Deva, but the government has yet to give the family permission to move.

Gheorghita came to the United States in February 1980 to return a cousin who had been staying with her family to his parents in Cleveland, Ohio.

"I had to get an invitation through the embassy to return the child to the United States," she said. "The Romanian secret police questioned my father about the trip and I was only supposed to stay three months."

"On the flight to New York City, there were 20-30 Romanians on the airplane and one-half of them were secret police. They would listen to every word we would say and would follow us to the bathroom," she said.

Gheorghita contacted friends of her father at Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio, was offered a scholarship to Baylor and decided to stay in the United States.

Gheorghita is majoring in business and German and will graduate with a bachelor of arts degree in May 1984. Her plans include staying at Baylor to obtain a master's degree in international management. She would like to work for an American firm in Germany, which would allow her to be close to her homeland.

She is a member of Highland Baptist Church in Waco and works as a resident assistant in Dawson Women's Residence Hall at Baylor.

"Someday I would like to return to Romania and help my people," she said. "I pray that day will come soon."

(John Dellis is a writer for the Baylor University public relations office.)

Thursday, February 9, 1984

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Names in the News



ALLIE MAE KEITH, right, received a pin recently for 31 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School—all at Hollandale Church, Hollandale. Sam Latham, Sunday School director, left, presented the pin. At other times, Miss Keith had nine years of perfect attendance, missed one Sunday, and had nine more years of perfect attendance, and missed one Sunday, before she began the 31-year stint. That makes 49 years perfect! She continues to walk to church, said her pastor, James Smith.

Robert L. Maddox Jr., a Southern Baptist minister and former assistant to President Jimmy Carter, has been named the new executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Maddox, who served as speechwriter and special assistant for religious liaison to President Carter from 1979 to 1981, is currently pastor of Mayfield Road Baptist Church in Arlington, Tex.

NEW YORK (BP)—Charles A. Kimball, a Southern Baptist who is an expert on middle eastern affairs, has been elected to the staff of the National Council of Churches of Christ as director of the Middle East office for the NCC's Overseas Division.

Kimball, previously interfaith director for the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Nyack, N.Y., assumed the highest level staff position at the National Council ever held by a Southern Baptist, effective Jan. 1.

Kimball was one of several Southern Baptists, including former SBC President Jimmy Allen, who became involved in the 1980 Iranian hostage crisis.

Off the Record

Teacher: "What is half of eight?"
Student: "Which way, teacher?"
Teacher: "What do you mean, which way?"
Student: "On top or sideways?"
Teacher (bewildered): "What difference does it make?"
Student: "Well, the top half of eight is zero, but half of the eight sideways is three."

A young man had just returned from agricultural college and was visiting a neighboring farmer to show off.

"Your methods are so old-fashioned," the visitor declared, "Why, I'll bet you don't get 10 pounds of apples from that tree."

"I dare say you're right," said the farmer. "That's a pear tree."

Three Baptist women with Mississippi connections were selected for inclusion in the 1983 edition of *Outstanding Young Women of America*. They were Glynda Hall, Louisville, Ky.; Mary Elizabeth Clawson, Hattiesburg, Main Street Church; and Mary Jean Padgett of Clinton, (Pine Grove Church, Simpson County.)

Hernando Church, Hernando, honored laymen on Baptist Men's Day, Jan. 22, with laymen speaking at two services and at a breakfast. James H. (Jim) Craig, Jr. was honored as "Layman of the Year" and was given a plaque by the Brotherhood president, Bill Cozart. W. E. Corkern is pastor.

Missionary News

Jason and Susan Carlisle, missionaries to Uruguay, are the parents of Eva Naomi, born Nov. 14. They may be addressed at Battle Ordenez, Florida, Uruguay. He grew up in Montevideo, Uruguay, where his parents were missionaries. She is from Jackson, Miss.

Glenn Morris, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Glenn Morris, missionaries to Hong Kong-Macao, married Deborah Jean Ward on Jan. 14 in Towson, Mo. His parents may be addressed at 169 Boundary St., Kowloon, Hong Kong. His mother is from Hattiesburg.

Edgar and Marilyn Graves, missionaries to Chile, have arrived in Costa Rica, for language study (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios, San Jose, Costa Rica). They are natives of Mississippi. He is from Ripley and she is from Starkville.

James and Gloria Jeanette Hare, missionaries to Brazil, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Rua Saboia Lima 126 Tijuca, 20521 Rio de Janeiro RJ, Brazil). He is a native of Gulfport.

John and Jerry Hilbun, missionaries to the Windward Islands, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: Barbados Baptist College, Fortescue, St. Philip, Barbados, W.I.). Born in Las Vegas, N.M., he calls Laurel, Miss. his hometown. She is also from Laurel.

Vincent and Sharon Johnston, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived on the field to begin language study (address: Caixa Postal 1635, 13100 Campinas SP, Brazil). They are natives of Mississippi.

Jon and Emily Lorch, missionary associates to The Gambia, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: Baptist Mission, P. O. Box 2376, Sere Kunda via Banjul, The Gambia). He was born in Illinois. She was born in Hattiesburg.

Steven and Minnie Hicks, Baptist representatives to Mexico, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 407 N. 38th Ave., Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401). He is a native of Madisonville, La., and she is from Poplarville, Miss.

Errol and Mary Simmons, missionaries to Spain, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Apartado 51, San Sebastian De Los Reyes, Madrid, Spain). He was born in Baton Rouge. She was born in Jones County, Miss.

Hal and Lou Ann Lee, missionaries to France, have returned to the field (address: 17 Voie de Wissous, 91300 Massy, France). He was born in Ruston, La., and lived in several Mississippi towns while growing up. The former Lou Ann Green, she was born in Independence, La., and also lived in several Mississippi towns while growing up.

Barbara J. Whittington, former Mississippian, missionary to the Ivory Coast, has completed language study in France and arrived on her field of service (address: 01 BP 3722, Abidjan 01, Ivory Coast). She was born in New Orleans, La.

Donald and Teresa Bolis, missionaries to the Niger Republic, have arrived in France for language study (address: 21, ave. du General de Gaulle, 37300 Joue-les-Tours, France). He is a native of Jackson.

Special Convention Rates
Airline tickets to Southern Baptist Convention Kansas City
Originating in Jackson, Memphis, New Orleans
Limited Space
Call 981-1345
Toll Free
1-800-872-8522
Ask for Harriett Bryan Tours, Inc.
P.O. Box 5221
Jackson, MS 39216

WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURER OF FIBERGLASS CHURCH PRODUCTS

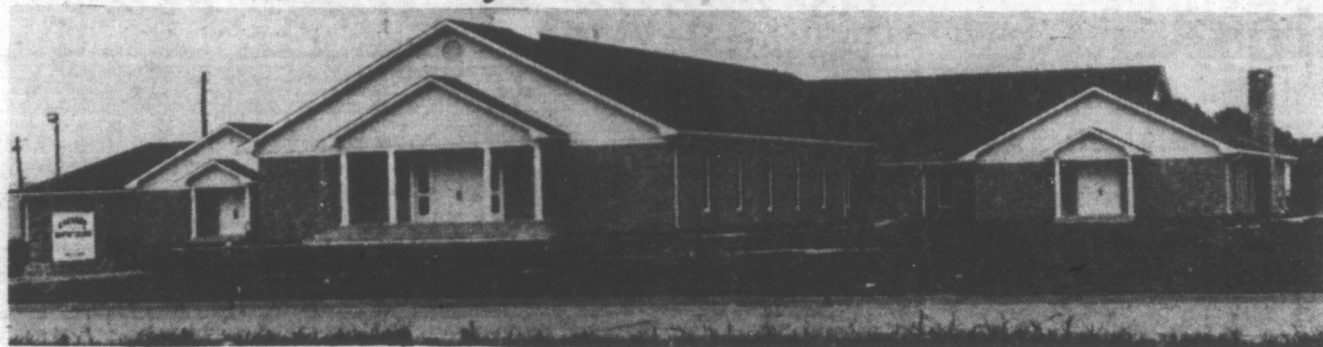
- STEEPLES
- WALL CROSSES
- STAINED GLASS WINDOWS
- BAPTISTRIES
- BAPTISTRY HEATERS

Write for free color brochure.

Fiberglass Specialties

A/C 214 657-6522 Box 210 Henderson, Texas 75652

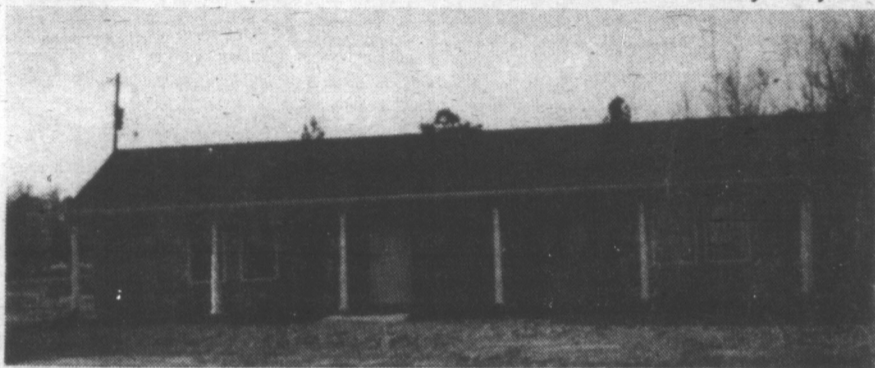
Just for the Record



CALVARY CHURCH, CLEVELAND, held a dedication service in its new building on Nov. 27, 1983, at 205 Bishop Road. The auditorium was filled to capacity. Lunch was served in the fellowship hall.

The sanctuary, about 19,000 square feet, seats 450, and the education facilities will care for about 325. The cost was

approximately \$755,000. The church now has over 819 total members. "In spite of being in a building program, the church is in the top 100 churches in the state giving to the Cooperative Program. The church was able to lead the Bolivar Association in baptisms," said Bob Hill, pastor at Calvary five years.



WILDWOOD CHURCH, CLINTON, began the new year with new church offices. The recently dedicated facility contains an adjoining pastor's study and administrative area; the minister of music and education's office; the minister of youth's office; the education—financial secretary's office; the church-pastor's secretary's office; a workroom; and a small kitchen off the receiving area. The new structure's furnishing and decor were coordinated by Mississippi Stationery Company. The construction was supervised by Ernie Kilman Construction Company. The total cost was only \$43,179.55 because of the large quantity of man hours and materials donated as gifts. The members of the Church Offices Committee are: Larry Bowman, Bobby Covington, chairman, Ernie Kilman, Dickey King, James Lane, Larry Lofton, Bob Reynolds, and Howard Vaughn. Fred Womack is the pastor.



PEACH CREEK CHURCH, PANOLA COUNTY, recently held a recognition service in honor of MRS. R. O. TOWLES (Virgie Parnell), left, pianist and/or organist of the church for 34 years. She began as pianist in 1930 and became organist in 1965. Her pastor, Charles Page, right, presented a corsage and an engraved silver tray from the church, in appreciation for her faithful service.

Mrs. Kirke dies

Funeral services for Johnnie M. Kirke, 65, were held at Parkway Church, Pascagoula, on Dec. 23, 1983. Mrs. Kirke died Dec. 21. She was secretary at Parkway Church at the time of her death. She was the wife of Paul Kirke of Gautier, a retired pastor, and the sister of Mrs. James Foster, Jackson, retired missionary to Surinam.

Evangelist Ed Vallowe of Forest Park, Ga., and Kenna Byrd, pastor of Parkway, officiated at the service, assisted by Arthur Schneider, retired Presbyterian minister.

Survivors include her husband, Paul Kirke Sr., Gautier; two sons, John Kirke and Paul Kirke Jr. of New Orleans; and three sisters, Zelma Foster of Jackson, Sarah Cameron of Canyon, Tex., and Velma Parker of Salem community.

Mississippi Valley Gas Company
The Clean Energy People

All SBC presidents oppose Vatican move

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)—Twelve former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention, including Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, have joined current SBC President James T. Draper Jr., and his three immediate predecessors in objecting to President Reagan's appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican.

Their action means every living former SBC president and the incumbent have protested Reagan's action, a total of 16 signers.

The original letter of protest was sent to the White House Jan. 6, and was signed by Draper, and immediate past presidents Bailey E. Smith, 1981-82; Adrian P. Rogers, 1980; and Jimmy R. Allen, 1978-79.

The four signers told President Reagan his appointment of an ambassador to the Holy See "would be a clear violation of the principle of church-state separation, a dangerous precedent in church-state relations, and an occasion for practical problems in the missionary work of all denominations."

On Jan. 10, the Vatican announced establishment of full diplomatic relations with the U.S., an announcement confirmed several hours later by the State Department and White House.

When asked to add their names to the letter of protest, the 12 former presidents agreed, some adding pungent comments of their own.

Herschel H. Hobbs, 1962-63, declared: "It is definitely a violation of the First Amendment. No matter how you slice it, the Vatican is still a church . . . if they send an ambassador to the Vatican, they ought to send one to Nashville. This claim that the Vatican is a state . . . I used to plough a farm about as big as that state."

K. Owen White, 1964, said he is "deeply concerned" about Reagan's action. "I see this as a flagrant and inexcusable violation of the principle of separation of church and state. I want to be counted among those who strongly protest this action."

Carl Bates, 1971-72, echoed concerns of numerous U.S.-based missionary-sending organizations, including the SBC Foreign Mission Board, when he said: "I consider this to be a serious blow to evangelical mission work throughout the world."

And Louie D. Newton, 1947-48, the oldest living former president, cited

protests he sent President Franklin D. Roosevelt for seeking to upgrade Myron Taylor's status as personal representative to that of full ambassador and fellow Baptist Harry S. Truman for naming Mark W. Clark ambassador. Both Roosevelt and Truman backed down after fierce public outcries.

Newton asked Reagan to "reconsider his appointment . . . in the hope and prayer, that the cherished principle of separation of church and state may be preserved in our beloved nation."

Also signing the letter were James L. Sullivan, 1977; Jaroy Weber, 1975-76; Cooper, 1973-74; W. A. Criswell, 1969-70; H. Franklin Paschall, 1967-68; W. Wayne Dehoney, 1966-67; Ramsey Pollard, 1960-61 and J. D. Grey, 1952-53.

In Washington, meanwhile, Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director James M. Dunn disputed a White House claim that Reagan has received virtually no protest calls or mail. "It's simply not true," Dunn said.

Stan Hastey is a representative of Baptist Press in Washington, D.C., serving on the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Ancient Babylonians in their calendar had 13 months. Based on the moon, this far-from-accurate calendar listed 29 or 30 days for each month.

Never does a man portray his own character more vividly than in his manner of portraying another.—Jean Paul Richter

Conceit is a great help to shallow wit.—E. P. Day

OLD BIBLES REBOUND

A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder.

"Internationally known specialists"

NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO.

Box 305-C — Greenwood, Miss. 38930

"We're going with Jimmy, how about you?"

Minette Drumwright, widow of Huber Drumwright & SBC Foreign Mission Board; James Coggins, retired Pastor, Travis Avenue Baptist Church; Dr. Bill Tolar, Dean, Southwestern Baptist Seminary; Dr. William Bell, Professor, Dallas Baptist College; Joe Hester, Associate Pastor, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama; Monroe Broadway, Pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Redding, California; Rick Markham, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Perry, Oklahoma; Dr. Lacoste Munn, Professor, Southwestern Baptist Seminary.

WHO: Dr. Jimmy Draper, Dr. Bill Tolar, Minette Drumwright, Jim Coggins.

WHAT: Mediterranean Cruise/Holy Land Tour. Highlighting the Life of Christ & the Journeys of Paul.

WHERE: July 20, 1984 RT from \$2499NY*
WHERE: Greek Isles, Ephesus, Patmos, Istanbul, Egypt & Israel. 15 days. Featuring the King David Hotel.
*Commercial flights, 3 meals per day, siteseeing included.

Call or write today for a free, no-obligation brochure.

Meier International, 1245 Karla Drive, Hurst, Texas 76053, 817/268-2246 Metro, 800/255-9200 Outside Texas

"The goal is to get to heaven"

IRVINE, Calif. (EP)—In the game "Monopoly," the object is to make the most money and ruin your opponents financially. In the game "Eternity," the goal is to get to heaven, and helping your opponents will aid your victory.

It's not an easy journey, says one of the co-creators, Patricia Haldin, 55, of this Orange County city 40 miles southeast of Los Angeles. Along the way, there are such pitfalls as Sin Sickness, Demon Oppression, Trials and Tribulations, Paul's Thorn, Serpent Cards, Backslidden on the Bridge Over Troubled Waters—and worst of all, a card that says you're not a believer.

"Everything is symbolic," Mrs. Haldin said. "You have to get a three or a seven (on a throw of dice) to get on the board to be born again. That qualifies you then to move around the board toward eternity."

In the game, doing good deeds for your opponents helps you win, she said. For example, if you use your prayer card to help someone else get rid of their serpent card, then you get a crown card worth 10 points, she said. The game is over when one player gets all three of his or her "believers" into heaven, and then all the players count up their points.

capsules

Students pledge for film, "Jesus"

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (EP)—Approximately 17,000 university students here to attend the KC '83 conference, a campus crusade sponsored student event contributed more than a million dollars in cash and pledges toward the translation and distribution of the film, "Jesus." The funds will be used to produce new translations of the film, to produce replacement copies of prints that are wearing out from heavy use, to finance additional teams of national Christians to show the film in remote areas, and for other related expenses.

Carey gets grant

William Carey College has received a grant totaling \$2,500 from the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, a part of \$1,575,000 in Sears Foundation funds for the 1983-84 academic year.

Award to Mercer

MACON, Ga. (BP)—Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law in Macon, Ga., has been awarded a grant of one million dollars—to be distributed over a three-year period—from the Callaway Foundation, Inc.

The award is primarily for the Furman Smith Library to purchase historical and current business law materials, and to fund related personnel costs.

Evangelists gather

SWANWICK, England (EP)—Over 270 men and women gathered here at The Hayes Conference Centre in mid-December for the annual British Evangelists' Conference. That attendance was the largest since the annual Conferences were instituted in 1967.

Couple give million

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Trinity Baptist Church in Oklahoma City has been given \$1 million by two of its longtime members.

Residential and commercial developer C. A. "Pat" Henderson and his wife, Barbara, presented the \$1 million check to Ben Loring, pastor, and Robert S. Scales, pastor emeritus, last December.

A majority of the gift was designated for development of Trinity's mission, Trinity North, now under construction. The mission has been meeting in an elementary school.

"I wanted to see the results of my gift while I'm alive," Henderson said.

From sun to sugar

WACO, Texas (BP)—Baylor University's Institute of Environmental Studies has donated solar-powered alcohol fuel production equipment to a Honduras farmers' cooperative

which turns surplus sugar into home-produced fuel.

The equipment will enable farmers at Aqua Blanca Sur on the northern Honduras coast to stand on their "economic feet" for the first time, says institute director Merle Alexander.

Local Honduras say the equipment will arrive just in the nick of time. Honduran sugar farmers are being squeezed out of the depressed sugar market and have had nowhere to sell their crops. They and their families face certain poverty, even starvation.

But by converting their own sugar crops to alcohol fuel, these farmers can raise their incomes and living standards, and make their country energy-independent.

Judge rules to favor MACS

BANGOR, Maine (EP)—U.S. District Court Judge Conrad K. Cyr ruled in favor of the Maine Association of Christian Schools (MACS), December 20 by finding that the state does not have the right to close the private religious schools.

The legal struggle between MACS and the state had its beginnings in 1977, and has blossomed into a full-blown controversy involving dozens of fundamentalist schools and churches statewide. The state had taken the position that under no circumstances would it waive the requirement that all Maine schools be approved. In order to protect the state's interest in the compulsory education system, it would attempt to close the Christian schools if they didn't cooperate.

Baptist dolls?

CLEVELAND, Ga. (BP)—Cabbage Patch dolls, the most popular toy in the past Christmas season, were first created at Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga.

Xavier Roberts, who has become a multimillionaire because of the dolls, told USA Today he first created the soft sculptures for an art class at Truett-McConnell, a junior college affiliated with the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia.

Robert's company has produced more than 350,000 of the handmade version and Coleco, which purchased the right to mass-produce the dolls, sold approximately 2.5 million, according to USA Today.

Roberts attended Truett-McConnell from September 1974 to March 1977. He took mostly art courses.

Director named

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Robin Oldham has been named director of communications at Southern Seminary here effective Feb. 1.

Oldham joins the seminary staff after working on the staff of Georgetown (Kentucky) for more than 10 years.

Massive "Living Water" project begins in parched north Brazil

Edd Trott to direct project

Edd Trott, missionary stationed in Campina Grande, Brazil, has been invited by the Steering Committee of the Living Water Project to be its director. Trott is a former resident of Mississippi and his wife, Freda, is a native of this state.

He has been serving as executive secretary of the Paraiba Baptist State Board. In March, a Brazilian Baptist pastor, Rui Barbosa, will succeed him in that post. Then the Trotts will be living, at least part of the time, in the drought stricken area where the Living Water Project is to be enacted. Edd was also elected by the North Brazil Mission to be relief ministries coordinator.

Last year Trott and others finished the Better Life Irrigation Project. "The Brazilian government has 3,200 tank trucks hauling water to people in the western part of northeast Brazil which has been suffering a five-year drought," the Trotts report, "but the people in Gravata had water in their homes and planted and harvested three crops in 1983, thanks to the Lord and Southern Baptists who gave to the world hunger offering. . . ."

programs to provide access for clean water in towns as well as irrigation projects."

The Paraiba project follows that pattern. The state government has built a number of dams in the general region and plans three more. The governor has promised Baptists technical advice and assistance. In turn, Baptists will:

—Irrigate up to 2,500 acres of land

with open canals, pipes, or river channels. Each farmer benefited will dig his own well and drainage ditches and repay (in crops) half of the cost of irrigating his land. Farmers in another 5,000-acre area may also get water and assistance as the project develops.

—Set up farmer and producer associations for cooperation.

—Establish demonstration farms where farmers can observe methods to improve production.

—Build or improve water distribution and sewage treatment systems in several towns.

—Underwrite small industries which use farm products or raw materials of the area.

—Improve medical services through medical equipment and volunteers from the United States. Brazilian Baptists will send a missionary doctor.

—Build community social centers, to be operated by Brazilian home missionaries, where people can learn skills, crafts, personal hygiene, nutrition, and pre-natal care.

—Bring Baptist pastors into the area, start preaching points and missions congregations, build churches, hold Vacation Bible Schools and evangelistic meetings, and visit every home. The goal is to present Jesus Christ to every person in the Pianco River Valley.

Project planners want to involve both Brazilian Baptist volunteers and Southern Baptist volunteers from the United States. The Foreign Mission Board will likely seek a state convention willing to contribute both manpower and money.

The comprehensive, holistic approach of this project and others is "enabling us to reach certain sections of the population we couldn't have reached otherwise," according to Thurmon Bryant, FMB director for Eastern South America. "It calls attention in the cities and towns where we work to the fact that Baptists stand for Christ in a very positive and helpful way."

New orientation manager, four missionaries named

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Timothy T. Brendle, a hunger-relief planner for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has been named to manage orientation of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries, beginning March 15.

The position was left open when Frank S. Wells resigned Jan. 15 to become a pastor in Atlanta. Wells had held the post since May 1'82.

Brendle will set up the first program for missionary orientation in the new Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va. The first group of missionaries to be trained there will begin an eight-week session April 9.

Brendle comes to the center not only as it moves facilities from Callaway Gardens, Ga., but as the board shifts its emphasis on how new mis-

sionaries are prepared for the field from providing information to facilitating learning.

One of Brendle's responsibilities will be overseeing a new education and orientation program for missionary children.

Under the direction of former missionary Corella Ricketson, the children's program will help MKs from kindergarten through grade seven learn about the areas where they will live.

Brendle and his wife, Ava, were appointed missionaries in 1978 and served in Haiti before coming to the home office in 1981. Since then his primary work in human needs has been developing projects for long-term hunger relief with missionaries and national leaders.

Uniform: The Servant of the Lord

By Robert Earl Shirley, pastor, Parkway, Tupelo
Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:5-6; 53:4-6

The identity of the one referred to as the servant in the book of Isaiah is far too complicated to be discussed in the way needed in this short lesson. Some scholars see him as the prophet himself, some as an unknown ruler or prophet, and many as the nation of Israel personified. Each position can be, and has been, both challenged and defended by dedicated Christian students of God's Word. It is obvious that in the main, the nation is intended. On the other hand, there is no question that the passages studied in our lesson today was applied in the New Testament to Christ our Lord.

C. H. Dodd has pointed out that of the twelve verses in the 53rd chapter, there is only one which does not reappear in whole or in part in the New Testament. Additional support of this idea is to be found in Matthew 8:17, John 12:38, Acts 8:30, and Romans 10:16. Obviously, the clearest demonstration is that we are told that when the eunuch was returning to Ethiopia, Philip turned to this book and preached unto him Jesus.

The nature of the servant (42:1-4). Today, we see a servant as one who is chosen for a task to which he willingly submits himself in total obedience. This was the role chosen by Jesus, and he fulfilled that role throughout his whole ministry. Although Isaiah probably was unaware of the greatness of his message, he was proclaiming the ministry of Jesus as Messiah. The spirit of the Lord is upon him to enable him to do

the work for which he is sent.

Echoes of this prophecy are seen in the New Testament at the baptism of Jesus when the heavens were opened, the Spirit of God descended like a dove, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." He seeks no notoriety or personal prominence that would normally be expected of such a deliverer. He is not to be a man of violence but will deal gently with the penitent.

The Servant will accomplish his mission. No temptation, no opposition, no danger will cause him to cut short his work until his purpose has been fulfilled.

As one looks with pessimism on our world today, he needs to remember that Christ is still working in the hearts of men. He may be accepted or rejected, but when hearts are opened, the grace of God still accomplishes its purpose. The church has faced opposition through the ages, but it is still alive and active today. Moreover, no individual who has ever come to Jesus has been turned away.

The work of the Servant (49:5-6). The Suffering Servant is here depicted as sent from God to return Israel to the Lord, but his mission is expanded to include the Gentiles as well. Jesus was to come unto his own and be rejected and then present the Gospel to the whole world. It was never intended that the grace of God should be offered to one nation alone.

The "chosen nation" was chosen to be a kingdom of priests and thus to be a blessing to the whole world.

The suffering of the Servant (53:4-6). The unique characteristic of this beautiful prophecy is that the innocent suffers vicariously for the guilty, whereas the suffering of Israel was the result of her own sins of disobedience. Perfect fulfillment of Isaiah's message was accomplished on the Cross as the sinless Christ died for all mankind.

Whatever the ancient preacher had in mind when he announced the coming of the Servant, we who know Christ as Savior have received comfort and assurance knowing that he bore our sins and carried our sorrows. Let us remember that Jesus did not die simply as a result of our sin but as the remedy as well. By his stripes we are healed. We see ourselves as numbered among those who had gone astray and among those who sought our own way. We know, too, that when our sin was turned over to Christ, there came a joy and a peace that is indescribable.

The atonement is too wonderful to be fully explained for it is beyond the comprehension of our finite minds. However, we know that it is real. We have found in him that which will remove our guilt and shame, give comfort to our hearts in time of sorrow, fill our lives, and give meaning and purpose to our being. Surely the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Bible Book: The decline

By Bill Causey, pastor, Parkway, Jackson
II Kings 14:23-16:20

Perhaps today's text can best be simplified by making lists of the kings included and describing their character.

In Israel there were six and all of them were evil. They were Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, and Pekah.

In Judah there were three kings. The first two were good and the third was evil. They were Azariah, Jotham and Ahaz.

Two of the above kings and their reigns are given special attention in our lesson for today, one in Israel and one in Judah.

I. The evil (but prosperous) rule of Jeroboam II in Israel (II Kings 14:23-27).

Jeroboam II ruled for 41 years in Israel but followed in the sins of his namesake, Jeroboam, the son of Nebat. It is to be remembered that the great sin of the first Jeroboam was setting up golden calves at Bethel and Dan. His intention was a political one in that he intended to keep the people of his country (Israel) from being under the influence of the king of Judah. The result was idolatry and a false priesthood (see I Kings 12:26-33).

Even though Jeroboam II's reign extended the borders of Israel and appeared to be prosperous, the decadent spiritual life of the people brought internal spiritual affliction (v. 26). Even though Israel did not have God's approval, he tolerated its existence.

After 41 years of his leadership, there followed the brief reign of Zechariah (6 months). Shallum assassinated him and became the ruler (one month). Menahem assassinated Shallum and reigned for ten years. Pekahiah inherited the throne and ruled two years. He was assassinated by Pekah who ruled for 20 years. All of these did evil in the sight of God, continuing the idolatry, keeping up the empty appearance of success, while the spiritual condition of the land deteriorated. Amos prophesied against this evil (Amos 6:4).

II. Evil rule of Ahaz in Judah (II Kings 16:1-20)

Ahaz ruled for 16 years in Judah, but did not follow in the footsteps of

place for cliques or those who feel they alone possess the truth.

The first twelve disciples of Jesus expressed their bias in their unguarded rejection of an unknown healer. This tendency still appears as bias, intolerance, rejection, and bigotry and still spoils Christian fellowship. Intolerance to those who are different in color, creed, or gender reflect again the spirit Jesus would transform.

A famous evangelist used to tell about a series of questions put to Abraham in heaven: "Father Abraham, whom have you in heaven? Any Episcopalians?" The answer, "No!" "Any Presbyterians?" Again a retort, "No!" "Have you any Independents?" And again, "No!" "Have you any Methodists?" And the rousing answer, "No, no!" "Then in some exasperation a final question, 'Whom have you there?' And the answer came back from on high, 'We don't know those names here. All who are here are Christians.'" The story reminds Christians of different denominations to respect and appreciate one another.

David, the greatest of kings. Rather, he imitated the kings of the northern kingdom of Israel and even engaged in human sacrifice, fully accepting the pagan practices of idolatry. He both erected places of heathen worship and worshipped in them himself. It is not as though he did it in ignorance, for one of the greatest of the prophets tried to guide him with messages from God (see Isaiah 7:3-9).

The kings of Syria and Israel conspired to war with Ahaz and take the country of Judah. This was averted by Ahaz in an alliance with the king of Assyria (Tiglath-pileser). This alliance would be the cause of an even more intense embracing of idol worship; copying the images and practices of Syria in apparent gestures of subservience to the king of Assyria (16:10-20).

III. Tragic declines of God's servant nations

These studies provide rich lessons for those who would serve God. Usefulness to God is compromised when, in worship and practice, pagan idols creep in. No motive (such as physical preservation) is adequate to explain turning from the true God and the dedication he requires and the moral righteousness he expects.

In an effort to stay in power, or accomplish secondary goals, their greatest mission was forfeited. Being the people of God was the only worthy reason for their existence.

By reviewing each of the kings and their records, one could conclude that God accepts no substitutes for dedication to him. Force is no substitute for righteousness. Nor is religious fanaticism, nor compromise, no matter how unifying or clever. Paying tribute to foreign kings and their pagan religious way postpones ruin but will not utterly avoid it. Building altars to other gods (materialism and personal ambitions for example) and even sacrificing our children upon them, only predicts, but does not avoid, ultimate ruin. Tolerating evil is sleeping with poisonous snakes in the hope they will be friendly in the end. One may even, as some evil king, have the favor of other people and court personal disaster.

Life and Work: Walking together

By Gerald P. Buckley, pastor, Parkway, Natchez
Mark 9:2-50

Before Christians can walk with one another, they must learn to walk in fellowship with Jesus.

I. The question of greatness (Mark 9:33-37)

After Jesus and the disciples arrived in Capernaum, he asked them what they had been discussing on the way. There was an awkward silence. Jesus was aware that a dispute had been going on. He had overheard them while they were discussing a major question of people through the ages: "Who shall be greatest?" No wonder they were silent. Suppose he asked us the nature of our daily conversations. What are we discussing as we make our journeys? Would we be embarrassed to discuss with Jesus the contents of our casual conversations?

Jesus was facing death. The disciples were soon to enter the darkest period of their lives. If ever Jesus wanted the disciples to walk together in love and mutual concern for each other's welfare, that time had come. Yet instead of harmony and love, Jesus found argument and competition.

They had been arguing among themselves about who was the greatest. How do you define a great person? Every person would like to be remembered as great. Does anyone wish to be a nobody? Deep down within each of us there is firmly planted the desire to be somebody. We want to be important—to be significant in one way or another.

The world's view of greatness is in sharp contrast to that of Jesus. Many have a childish estimate that greatness can be measured in things. If a person has enough material things, if a man or woman can have the right automobile, or a dwelling plush enough, or enough stocks or bonds, or money in the bank, or can accumulate enough gadgets—then we have to say that man is great. The world thinks of greatness in terms of what a man is worth financially. We need to remember that nothing can be used as a measuring stick for greatness, that ends at the grave.

Think of the shabby ways many reach for greatness. Faultfinding is one way. Unkind criticism of others is invariably a coverup for mediocrity. A backhanded bid for self-promotion always is revealed by the one who picks and finds fault with his fellow man. Lifting self by lowering others; lifting me and my family by knocking you and your family is the way some people try to climb the ladder toward greatness. However, they seldom succeed. The mask is too thick and the motive is too obvious.

Jesus sat down to teach, which was a posture often used by rabbis when they were going to give a formal teaching. He taught the disciples that the great people are the serving people. Greatness is being willing to be least. Great persons are the Lord's foot washers. For Jesus, real greatness means caring about people. This is also a clue to the nature of a great

church. A great church is concerned with more than numbers and money. Real greatness means caring for the aged, helping the unemployed, standing up for the poor and reaching out to the neglected.

Jesus then provided a concrete example of the meaning of greatness in the kingdom of God. He took a child as an object lesson and placed him prominently before his disciples. Jesus was saying that one becomes great in God's kingdom by giving himself in acts of service in behalf of those who are helpless and unable to repay with rewards or favors.

Think of the service rendered by untold numbers of nursery workers. There seems to be those persons in almost every church who have the gift of selfless involvement in caring for babies and little children. Their service enables young parents to relax and join in worship and Bible Study. Yet the nursery worker is seldom honored and often forgotten in the ongoing business of the church. Jesus offers a fresh standard for greatness in the kingdom. Where do you suppose nursery workers rank according to Jesus.

II. True tolerance (Mark 9:38-41)

John reported that the disciples had seen a man casting out demons in the name of Jesus. They had objected, not because what he was doing was wrong but because he was not of their group. Jesus quickly replied that they were not to forbid such a man. Christian discipleship has no